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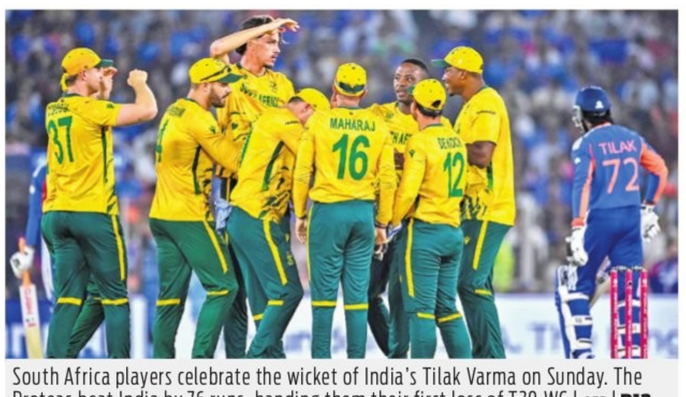

South Africa players celebrate the wicket of India's Tilak Varma on Sunday. The Proteas beat India by 76 runs, handing them their first loss of T20 WC | AFP | P13

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India delays negotiators' US visit amid tariff uncertainty

India, US trade negotiating teams were to begin talks in Washington on Monday

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

THE scheduled visit of India's trade negotiating team to the US this week has been postponed in the wake of the US Supreme Court striking down the sweeping tariffs imposed by the Trump administration on various countries, said an official with the Ministry of Commerce.

The Indian delegation, led by Commerce Ministry Joint Secretary Darpan Jain, was supposed to depart for Washington on Sunday and the three-day talks were to begin on Monday. After final negotiations, both sides were expected to conclude the text of the interim trade agreement.

According to the commerce ministry, the decision to reschedule the visit of the Indian team was taken by both sides after assessing the latest developments and their implications for the negotiations. "The next date of the visit to the US is yet to be decided," said an official.

On Friday, in a major setback to US President Donald Trump, the US Supreme Court ruled that the tariffs imposed by Trump on nations around the world were illegal and that the president had exceeded his authority when he imposed the sweeping levies by using the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977.

Hours after the adverse verdict, Trump announced a 10% tariff on imports from all countries, including India, effective February 24 for 150 days. A day later, he increased the across-the-board tariff to 15%.

The US had imposed a 25% reciprocal tariff on India in August 2025. Later, an additional 25% duty was slapped for buying Russian crude oil, taking the total tariffs on India to 50%. Earlier this month, India and the US agreed on a framework to finalise an interim trade deal, under which Washington would cut down the reciprocal tariffs from 25% to 18%. The additional 25% penal duty was also removed.

Under this plan, the US was to bring down tariff to 18% on Indian exports. However, in light of the Supreme Court verdict, there is a question mark on the effective rate. Trump's remark that "nothing changes for India" added to the confusion.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal had previously said that the interim trade agreement between India and the US was expected to be signed in March and implemented in April.

1 New date after evaluation

Sources said the visit has been put off to give both sides time to evaluate the latest developments and their implications. The meeting will be rescheduled at a mutually convenient date

2 Confusion over rate

Trump's remark that 'nothing changes for India' after the US Supreme Court verdict added to the confusion among Indian exporters about the effective tariff rate

3 'Negotiating blocs needed'

Countries affected by US tariffs should form 'negotiating blocs' instead of negotiating with Trump, said Brazil's President Lula da Silva, suggesting 'unionisation' of those suffering from US tariffs

US must treat all countries equally: Lula

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on Sunday urged the US not to spark a 'new Cold War' and called for all countries to be treated equally, signalling a desire to reset relations ahead of his planned visit to Washington next month.

"I want to tell US President Donald Trump that we don't want a new Cold War. We don't want interference in any other country. We want all countries to be treated equally," Lula said at a press conference in New Delhi, where he wrapped up a three-day visit to India.

Brazil President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

Lula said his agenda would focus on trade, immigration, investment, and academic ties. Relations between Brasília and Washington have been tense in recent months, with disputes ranging from tariffs on Brazilian exports to disagreements on foreign policy.

The Brazilian leader, known for his Leftist positions and has often clashed with Trump on trade and foreign policy, stressed dialogue over confrontation. "We don't want to interfere in any country; we want all nations to be treated fairly," he said.

In recent months, the Trump administration eased some tensions, exempting key Brazilian exports from a 40% tariff imposed last year. Lula described the thaw in relations as a step toward global stability.

Lula's visit to India also focused on strategic partnerships, with both countries agreeing to strengthen cooperation on critical minerals and rare earths. The two nations signed a series of agreements covering trade, technology, and innovation during the meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

PM lashes out at Cong over shirtless protest

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

They can't perform in Parliament and do not allow their allies to speak. By not allowing Parliament to function, it is their allies who suffer

Narendra Modi

Thanks INDIA allies

The PM thanked other INDIA bloc allies for criticising the Congress over the Delhi protest. "The allied parties have shown courage to criticise Congress."

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the Indian National Congress, days after a shirtless protest was staged by Congress workers at the AI impact Summit.

Addressing a rally in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, which faces Assembly elections next year, Modi accused the Congress of misconduct and said its "unbridled leadership was bent on damaging the country's interests."

Breaking his silence over the shirtless protest for the first time, Modi said, " The *sarfira* (crazy) and *be-lagaam* (reckless) leader of Congress is hellbent on destroying the country. I ask Congress leaders that the nation already knows your true form, what was the need to strip further?"

He accused the Congress of turning a global event into a platform for dirty politics. He said the party had disrespected a forum meant to showcase India's technological prowess.

Describing the protest as a sign of ideological bankruptcy, Modi sought to draw a distinction between the Congress and its partners in the opposition INDIA bloc. He said no other opposition parties, including the All India Trinamool Congress, the BSP and the DMK had acted in a similar manner.

PM Narendra Modi talks to a passenger during a metro ride in Meerut; UP CM Yogi Adityanath is also seen | PTI

In an apparent reference to a top Congress leader, Modi said: "If you want to sit in the Prime Minister's chair, first of all you have to win the hearts of the people of this country. By sending women MPs and capturing seats, you cannot become the Prime Minister."

SKY STING

ISRAEL MISSILE PART OF PM'S VISIT AGENDA

India is likely to advance discussions on procuring the Israeli-origin 'Sky-sting' beyond-visual-range-air-to-air missile during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel | P9

J&K ENCOUNTER

JeM topgun among three terrorists killed

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

SECURITY forces on Sunday dealt a major blow to militant outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad by killing three of its Pakistani militants in encounters in the dense forests of Chatroo in Kishtwar of J&K.

The gunfight broke out in the Passerkut area of Chatroo forest after a joint operation by army, police and CRPF acting on intelligence under Operation Trashi-I.

Preliminary assessments by security forces suggest that one of the deceased is Saifullah, a notorious JeM commander. He had infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir nearly five years ago and had masterminded a flurry of deadly attacks on security forces, including one in July 2024 that left four soldiers dead. Saifullah had escaped a number of encounters in the past.

"Troops of CIF Delta in close coordination with J&K police, and CRPF re-engaged militants at approximately 11 am in challenging terrain," an Army spokesperson said. Two AK-47 rifles and other war-like stores were recovered from the encounter site.

Sources said militants were hiding inside a mud house located on the foothills. A trained K9 canine 'Tyson' from 2 Parachute regiment (Special Forces) played a key role in locating the militants. Troops launched a decisive assault on militant positions in the mud house, leading to the encounters.

Panchayat, corpn polls by June, says CM

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS @Manjugini (Uttara Kannada)

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday announced that elections to zilla and taluk panchayats will be held by June this year. Replying to a question on whether Gokarna will be upgraded as a TMC, he said it is not possible as the election process has begun and the polls would be held by June.

The government has been facing criticism for not holding local body elections since it came to power in 2023. The polls have been pending for a long time, while the tenure of 195 urban local bodies ended without an election.

In all, 5,952 gram panchayats, 239 taluk panchayats, 31 zilla panchayats and five city corporations will now go to the polls.

EXPRESS READ

Govt mulls mobile ban for under-16 children

Bengaluru: The state government is actively considering a ban on mobile phone usage for children below 16 years, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday | P2

T20 HIT-WAVE
ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

Today's Match

7pm: Zimbabwe vs West Indies (Mumbai)

LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, DELHI

Jai Jawan Jai Kisan

Celebrates

31st Foundation Day

on

Monday, 23rd February, 2026

Lt Gen R S Raman
PVSM, AVSM, YSM
Chief Guest

Shri Anil Shastri
Former Union Minister & Chairman-BOG, LBSIM
will preside

SALIENT FEATURES

» Top 15 Private B-Schools of India 2025 by Times of India, Business Today, Outlook, The Week, Fortune India, Business World, and India Today.
» Highly Qualified Faculty Members with Ph.D.
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LIC/P1/2024-25/51/Eng

ALMANAC TODAY

- **Monday:** 23.02.2026
- **Year:** Vishwavasu
- **Ayana:** Uttharayana
- **Ritu:** Sisira
- **Masa:** Phalguna
- **Paksha:** Sukla
- **Tithi:** Shashti 9.52 am
- **Nakshatra:** Bharani 5.22 pm
- **Moon in** Vrishabha Rashi
- **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
- **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm
- **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 17°C | MAX 32°C

FORECAST Afternoon clouds

Sunrise	06.38 am
Sunset	06.27 pm
Moonrise	10.40 am
Moonset	11.54 pm

GOVT WEIGHS MOBILE BAN FOR U-16 KIDS

Mental health experts, educators warn against abrupt curbs, say such a move will lead to negative impact

GAYATHRI M KURUP @ Bengaluru

THE state government is actively considering a ban on mobile phone usage for children below 16 years, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah citing growing concerns over addiction, exposure to harmful content and behavioural issues among minors.

Addressing the vice-chancellors of state universities at a meeting on Saturday, Siddaramaiah said excessive mobile phone use is increasingly influencing children in negative ways and sought the response of vice-chancellors and educationists on prohibiting the use of mobile phones among children aged below 16 years. He cited the examples of Australia and some European countries banning the use of social media by children and said the Karnataka government was seriously considering the implementation of the same in the state.

The CM stressed that the youngsters were increasingly getting addicted to social media and drugs. He said he wanted to know the opinion of the vice-chancellors on whether a curb on mobile phone usage can bring about a positive change. He also asked the vice-chancellors to take steps to make their campuses drug-free.

The proposal comes at a time when smartphones have become deeply embedded in the education system, particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the shift to digital learning. Schools now rely on mobile phone-based platforms to share homework, study materials and announcements, making the gadgets both an essential academic tool and a growing source of concern for parents and educators.

EXPERTS BAT FOR PHASED REGULATION

'Mental health professionals and educators have cautioned that an outright ban may be difficult to implement and could create unintended psychological and social consequences for adolescents, whose academic, social and emotional lives are increasingly intertwined with digital spaces. Rakhi N Gopan, a counselling psychologist, said the impact of phone usage varies across developmental stages, with younger children facing attention and cognitive challenges from fast-paced digital content, while teenagers are more vulnerable to social media pressures, online safety risks and algorithm-driven exposure.

Psychologist Saurabh Ramachandran, who works with adolescents, said many adolescents depend on digital devices for schoolwork, peer interaction and daily routines, and abrupt blocking of access may create a sense of loss, anxiety, irritation or secretive behaviour. He suggested that a phased regulation would help families and schools adapt while encouraging healthier digital habits.

Experts also emphasise that digital overuse is a systemic issue involving families, schools, policymakers and technology platforms, rather than a problem that children alone can be expected to solve. Imposing blanket rules without considering systemic realities such as schools sending homework via phones and parents' limited ability to constantly monitor usage may not be effective, they said.

They recommend age-appropriate guidelines, digital literacy education and safer online environments instead of a blanket ban, arguing that the goal should be to equip children with the skills to use technology responsibly while safeguarding their wellbeing.

"What we need instead is regulation, guidance and shared responsibility among parents, schools, policymakers and mental health professionals. Any regulation on phone usage should be brought in through a developmentally compatible policy to avoid a one-size-fits-all ban," said Rakhi.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and volunteers take part in the 10th Footpath Walk, organised under Project Walkaluru, on Sunday | EXPRESS

10TH FOOTPATH WALK HELD

The 10th Footpath Walk organised under Project Walkaluru was held today in Kodigehalli area, in which more than 120 citizens participated and assessed the quality of footpaths. Revenue Minister and Byatarayanapura MLA Krishna Byre Gowda flagged off the programme. The walk started from Railway Parallel Road junction and covered parts of Sahakar Nagar and Kodigehalli main roads, forming a continuous 6km stretch of footpath. Participants were instructed to walk along the designated route and identify major obstacles that forced pedestrians off the footpath onto the road. They were also asked to document and photograph such obstacles. It was assessed that there is one broken/missing footpath slab, one car blocking the footpath, four Bescom-related obstacles and two dangerous signboards. **ENS**

Delayed overpass wotk pushes opening of Major Arterial Road

INDRA S @Bengaluru

THE much-awaited Major Arterial Road (MAR), linking Magadi Road and Mysuru Road, earlier slated to open by March-end is now expected to be inaugurated only by late April. Box pushing for the Challaghatta Road underbridge (RUB) was completed well ahead of schedule. But the steel girder installed earlier to push the precast box for the RUB must be removed before commencing vehicular overpass (VOP) construction. The Railways approved March 5 as the date for girder removal. The work on the overpass can resume only after that.

A senior official told TNIE, "Three of the six lanes are ready for commuter use, but we plan to open all six lanes together. The delay is due to pending work on the vehicular overpass."

The VOP being constructed adjacent to the underpass will provide connectivity to the fifth and sixth blocks of the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL). This enables smoother access to MAR and traffic movement between the blocks. The RUB used precast segments, but the VOP will be cast-in-situ, where concrete is poured, molded, and cured on site. "In-situ casting requires at least 14 days for curing and strengthening. This may likely push the completion to late April," the official said.

To facilitate smooth entry and exit onto MAR from VOP, a mini rotary is being developed at the junction. The official said that when complete, the 10.75-km stretch from the Challaghatta Metro Station to Kadabagere Cross will take only eight minutes.

PANCHATANTRA STORIES COME TO LIFE THROUGH TRADITIONAL ART FORMS

GAYATHRI M KURUP
@Bengaluru

OLD and familiar Panchatantra stories are finding new visual expression at the national art camp, where young artists are reimagining the ancient fables through diverse traditional Indian art forms while learning directly from hereditary practitioners.

Organised by Bengaluru-based Yuvaka Sangha under its Art Matters forum in collaboration with the Indian Knowledge Systems division of the Ministry of Education, the camp brought together 400 fine arts students from 17 states. Selected from more than 1,000 applicants, participants are interpreting 84 Panchatantra stories across ten classical styles, including Mysore painting, Kalamkari, Kerala mural, Thanjavur mural, Chitrakathi, Pattachitra, Gond art, Mata ni Pachedi and Madhubani.

Organisers say the Panchatantra was chosen for its enduring relevance and its ability to convey values such as intelligence, friendship, courage and ethical decision-making through animal fables. Rendering the same stories across multiple regional styles allows students to see how visual language changes with geography while the narrative core remains intact. The initiative also aims to address the limited availability of authentic Indian visual references for students and schools.

An artist at work during the national art camp in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

Students are assigned a single art form and mentored by senior traditional artists, many of whom have inherited these practices across generations. The process begins with story narration and sketching sessions before final works are executed on canvas. Organisers estimate that about 840 artworks will be completed, with emphasis on regional aesthetics and iconographic accuracy.

Shivaprasad, mentor and incharge, Art Matters, said the effort is intended to make traditional visual forms more accessible to young learners. "When children look for images, they often find material from outside India. Through this project, we are creating a repository rooted in our own stories and artistic traditions," he said.

For participants, the camp has become a space for both technical learning and artistic exchange. Bhupendra Singh Chauhan, a first-year Master's student in painting at Rahini College of Art and Design, Indore, said the residency helped clarify distinctions within traditional practices and deepen his understanding of regional techniques. He added that demonstrations by mentors, even within a limited timeframe, provided insight into processes that usually take 15 to 20 days for a single work. "Working with artists from across India, sharing techniques and learning about their methods has been very helpful. Camps like this help us grow and connect as artists," he said.

The camp is being hosted at Chanakya University from February 13 to 27. Once digitised, the artworks will be reproduced for display in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas nationwide.

North City chief to officials: Ensure waste segregation at source

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

TO avoid dependence on landfill sites and yet keep the city clean, Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar on Sunday issued strict instructions to solid waste management officials to make waste segregation at the household level mandatory.

This measure was initiated in view of the challenges faced in waste disposal due to protests by local residents near landfill sites in recent times. Wet waste collected from households shall be sent to processing units for compost preparation, while dry waste will be transported to recycling units and waste-to-energy plants.

He also set a target to all Assistant General Managers and Deputy General Managers of the corporation to take necessary action to achieve a target of collecting 65-70 per cent segregated waste by the end of March 2026.

Kumar instructed officials and staff to actively cooperate in the Swachh Survekshan 2025-26 assessment. As part of this, the first phase of a special cleanliness campaign has been scheduled from March 1 to 8, and he has asked officials to ensure large-scale participation by citizens, associations, organizations and public representatives, besides organising awareness programmes.

To preserve the city's aesthetics and earn appreciation from citizens, he advised officials to ensure that no black spots (garbage dumping points) remain within the corporation limits. "Health inspectors and marshals must respond immediately to solid waste management complaints received, and take prompt action," he said, adding that public urination (yellow spots) and spitting (red spots) have been observed to be increasing near skywalks, which adversely affect the city's aesthetics. "Marshals have been instructed to maintain strict vigil in such locations and impose penalties on violators as per rules," the commissioner stated.

MASS CLEANING DRIVE ACROSS CITY

A large-scale mass cleaning drive and black spot clearance operation was carried out across various locations in all six Assembly constituencies under Bengaluru Central City Corporation limits on Sunday. Commissioner Rajendra Cholan stated that a 8.85km stretch was covered and about 60 loads of waste accumulated along roadsides were cleared, and 21 black spots were eliminated.

EXPRESS READ

Dalai Lama launches Ekya School's book

Bengaluru: The Dalai Lama launched '15 Learnings in 15 Years of Ekya: How We Built Schools,' a book that reflects on Ekya Schools' fifteen-year journey of reimagining how children learn. Dr K C Ramamurthy, chairman of CMR Group of Institutions and Ekya Board of Governors, and Dr Tristha Ramamurthy, founder, Ekya Schools & Provost, CMR University were present. The book traces Ekya's shift from recall-based teaching towards deeper conceptual understanding, critical thinking and authentic assessment, closely aligned with the vision of the National Education Policy. **ENS**

2,000 e-buses to replace BMTC's old fleet this yr

Bengaluru: In a move aimed at reducing pollution, improving passenger safety and comfort, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) will scrap and replace 2,000 old buses with new electric buses this year. A senior BMTC official said, the buses identified for scrapping are outdated and inefficient for regular operations. The decision follows a broader fleet expansion and modernisation drive undertaken after the Congress government assumed office, during which around 7,800 buses are already inducted into service. Old buses pose potential safety hazards and cause discomfort to commuters due to frequent breakdowns and poor onboard conditions. Removing old vehicles from the fleet is necessary to ensure safer and more reliable services for passengers. The transition also aligns with the Central Government's push for electric mobility to curb urban pollution. Once the 2,000 old buses are scrapped, BMTC plans to induct 2,000 electric vehicles (EVs) into its fleet, marking a significant step toward sustainable public transport. **ENS**

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

23rd February : Where Stability Feeds Adventure Stability nourishes. Dependability creates emotional ease. It's why adventurers often spring off very secure anchors of solid relationships, habits and environs. Arguably, it's those predictable elements that allow them to take bold risks of exploration through the uncertain and unknown. The steady Taurus lunar energy supports our bravest choices.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Experience has taught you exactly what you need and how to go about getting it. And though the order has been fulfilled, you still hunger for more. This keeps you curious and in motion. Rather than wrestling your appetite, let it guide you.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
Don't reveal too much. Hold back and assess. Keep resources hidden. Make no deals. If your entire effort goes into learning what others need and want, you'll soon know the exact right next move.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
Today, you may catch yourself thinking, "Wow, this is my mom/dad energy showing up in someone else." The good news is, you're not stuck in the old script. You get to respond like the grown-up you are now.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
They'll say you're creative. You'll say you're just solving a problem. Your needs are unique, so of course your reaction must be, too. Your creativity is a response to your environment that brings about a very special and unusual circumstance.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
Passion makes the stakes higher so that getting what you want is a glorious validation and not getting what you want feels devastating. The amplified emotion is the trade-off built into caring deeply. You accept it because a muted life costs more.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
A sommelier calls a wine's color the robe. And if you were a wine, your robe would be rosy today, breathing free and grateful to be released from a bottled-up state. Someone finds you intoxicating.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
"Yes" has been the default lately. You're so capable! But one small agreement at a time and you may be gradually headed toward overextension. It only takes one word to successfully avoid spreading yourself too thin, and that word is "no."

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
You get a rush from helping people -- an actual chemical high similar to the one that comes with a roller coaster ride, an uplifting media encounter or a heartfelt hug. Giving to others makes you feel like you're the one being gifted.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Friends and loved ones may be all around, and still, you may find yourself craving your own company. That's because you know how to make yourself happy. Time alone can be exactly the right choice today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
You'll think you know and then, suddenly, you'll see the holes in your knowledge -- bespoke opportunities to become even stronger, more capable and more integrated into the fabric of this world. An open mind is your best asset.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You're allowed to exit early if something feels off. Stepping away can save everyone's time. Trust that what's meant for you won't require you to compromise much. A good fit will be an easy fit, and it's out there for you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
Why do you think more about what you have than what you don't have? You're one of those people who orient their attention toward what's working instead of what's missing -- a happy habit that makes gratitude your default.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle ⬇

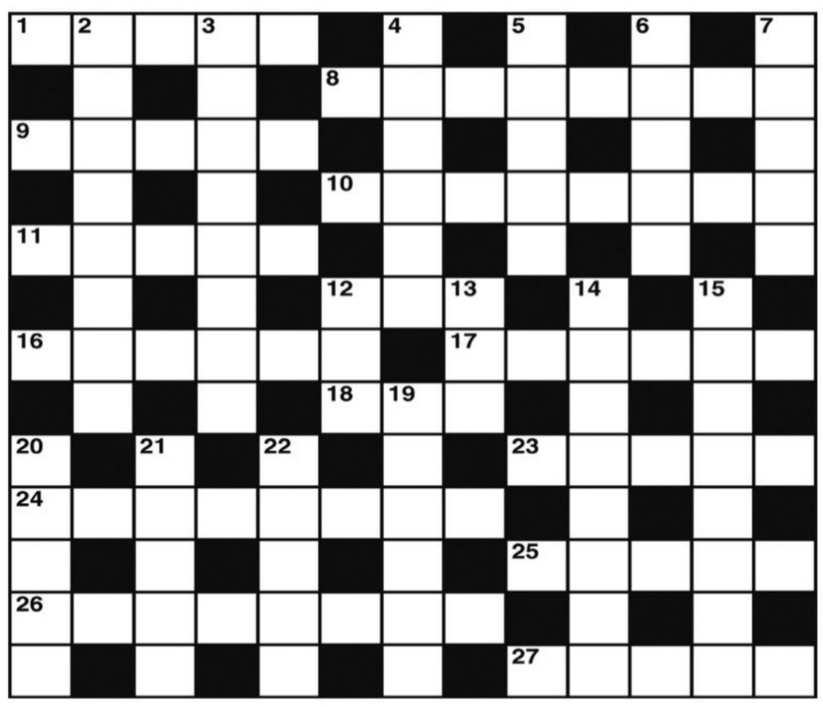
	1	2	5	8				
5		6			9	4		
	4				7			
		9	3					
	5						7	
					2	6		
			2				9	
		8	9			5		1
				4	6	2	3	

3	9	6	4	7	1	8	2	5
5	7	2	9	6	8	1	3	4
1	4	8	3	2	5	6	9	7
8	3	9	7	5	6	4	1	2
7	2	4	1	9	3	5	6	8
6	5	1	2	8	4	3	7	9
4	8	7	6	1	2	9	5	3
9	6	5	8	3	7	2	4	1
2	1	3	5	4	9	7	8	6

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 A firm supporter but a creeper (5)
8 Kept from retiring (8)
9 Minimum of a quarter allowed to go round (5)
10 The kindly feeling of its beneficiaries? (8)
11 Hard back (5)
12 Used for lighting and heating in Madagascar (3)
16 Girl with a new angle (6)
17 Trained marine pilots (6)
18 Pack animal (3)
23 Silent comedy film star (5)
24 No ways to go through congested areas (8)
25 Powerfully built breed of dog (5)
26 To encourage debts is false (8)
27 Fading and dingy; thrown out (5)

DOWN

2 Subtle implication but a patently obvious one (8)
3 Pounds perhaps in liquid assets (8)
4 Game and a vegetable with much stuffing (6)
5 Hazards of drivers and divers (5)
6 Stay clear when hungry prima donna turns up (5)
7 More than one figure is old-fashioned (5)
12 Badger served up as fish (3)
13 Not quite the identical person (3)
14 Try a ruse to get government money (8)
15 Is said to be ordered in advance (8)
19 A site for a roadway (6)
20 Lower seaman down into rough sea (5)
21 It may be smoked out if its den (5)
22 Bustling atmosphere around the street (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Speechless, 6 Puss, 10 Roast, 11 Barrister, 12 Bothered, 13 Italy, 15 Tea tray, 17 Sawdust, 19 Open-air, 21 Haricot, 22 Toast, 24 Military, 27 Well-oiled, 28 Koala, 29 Newt, 30 Greyhounds.

Down: 1 Serf, 2 Elaborate, 3 Catch, 4 Liberty, 5 Strides, 7 Ultra, 8 Sorry state, 9 Civil war, 14 Stood to win, 16 Reaction, 18 Uncertain, 20 Rambler, 21 Holiday, 23 Allow, 25 Tokyo, 26 Bays.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

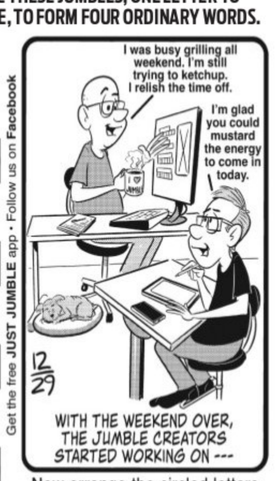
BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

NPDAA

CNHMU

WNWDIO

SARYSG


I was busy grilling all weekend. I'm still trying to ketchup. I relish the time off.
I'm glad you could mustard the energy to come in today.
12/29
WITH THE WEEKEND OVER, THE JUMBLE CREATORS STARTED WORKING ON ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" " " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: MODEM PANIC TRIPLE NONFAT
Answer: When they ran out of lettuce for salads, she told the staff to — "ROMAINE" CALM

Historians, researchers and residents of Kalikeri in Koppal district have urged the state government to undertake an excavation in the village on the lines of Lakkundi in Gadag district. According to historians, Kalikeri was a coin-minting centre during the Kalyani Chalukya era. The region is also believed to have been ruled by the Satavahanas, Rashtrakutas and Badami Chalukyas

Crashes claim 31 lives/day; max accidents on highways

62% of all mishaps on SHs, NHs; city witnessed 891 deaths in 2025

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

ON an average, 31 people die and 86 sustain injuries in road accidents every day in Karnataka, with 62.68% of these accidents reported on national and state highways in 2025. In January 2026 alone, 1,009 people lost their lives in road accidents. Senior police officers said that overspeeding, negligent behaviour by road users, ongoing highway works and infrastructure issues are major factors behind these accidents reported.

In 2025, 11,408 fatal accidents and 31,751 non-fatal accidents were reported in the state. In 2024, these numbers were 11,480 and 31,588. Majority of these accidents have occurred on highways.

The statistics also revealed that in 2025, 891 people lost their lives in road accidents in Bengaluru, the highest in the state, followed by Belagavi district at 750 (plus 140 under the commissionerate) and Tumakuru at 689.

A senior officer from Bengaluru Rural district explained that accidents can be controlled through three key measures. The first is engineering — ensuring good infrastructure, including proper lighting, lane markings, foot overbridges and service roads. The second is enforcement by the police. The third is education and awareness campaigns on road safety and responsible driving behaviour.

The police department is now enforcing strict action and educating the public about road safety through various programmes, including campaigns on social media. The officer said the major reasons for highway accidents are overspeeding, negligent driving behaviour and fatigue among heavy vehicle drivers.

LIVES LOST

Year	'24	'25	'26*
NH	3,914	4,015	341
SH	3,167	3,135	274
Other roads	4,222	4,222	375
Other places	177	177	19
Total	11480	11,408	1,009

(*Figures till Jan)

He also noted that strict measures are needed, including regular patrolling and booking of offenders for violations on highways, like lane discipline and over-speeding.

Overspeeding, poor infrastructure are behind the rising highway accidents, police said. An officer from Hassan said there are two major reasons behind accidents: infrastructure issues and faulty driving behaviour. If road users follow traffic rules, such as wearing helmets and seat belts, fatalities can be reduced and accidents can be prevented from turning fatal. Speeding and drunk driving are major mistakes committed by riders and drivers.

In Hassan, infrastructure issues, like unscientific speed-breakers, sharp curves and problematic medians were identified by the respective subdivision DySPs and brought to the notice of officials of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in cases of national highways and the Public Works Department (PWD) for state highways. The officer noted that lack of reflective road markings and overgrown bushes along roadsides are impeding road users.

Tumakuru SP KV Ashok told TNIE that most highways in Tumakuru are under construction, and several stretches have poor lighting, affecting road users. The police have taken up special drives and cases against speeding have doubled in 2025 compared to the previous year. Another officer said that most highways in the district lack service lanes, affecting long-distance drivers, especially as many stretches remain under construction.

A senior officer from Bengaluru City traffic police said the rise in road accidents within the city can be attributed to the rapid increase in population and vehicular density. He noted that the growing number of vehicles on city roads, coupled with higher traffic volume, has significantly contributed to congestion and a higher risk of accidents.

19-YEAR-OLD KILLED AS CANTER HITS BIKE

Bengaluru: A 19-year-old youth, who was heading to a hospital to deliver food to his ailing father, died after a speeding canter being driven in the wrong direction on a one-way road hit his two-wheeler near Dhananayakanahalli Main Road under Jnanabharathi traffic police station limits on Saturday night. The deceased has been identified as Muniyappa, a resident of Dhananayakanahalli. He was employed at a bike showroom in Kengeri. According to the police, the accident occurred around 9.45pm when Muniyappa was on his way to deliver food to his father, who is admitted to a hospital. He sustained severe head injuries when a canter truck, allegedly being driven at high speed in the wrong direction, hit his bike. The passersby rushed him to a hospital, but he succumbed to the injuries despite treatment. The driver of the truck abandoned the vehicle and fled the scene, police said. **ENS**

HERALDING SUMMER

A vendor sells fruits under a Yellow Bell Trumpet tree, which is in full bloom heralding the arrival of summer, in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Cabbie held for abusing, overcharging woman

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A 42-year-old cab driver was arrested by the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) police for allegedly harassing a woman passenger at the terminal and demanding an excess fare.

The accused has been identified as Nagesh. According to police, the incident occurred around 8 am on February 21. The woman, identified as Priyansh, had booked a cab through an app and arrived at Terminal 2 of KIA. While the fare displayed on the app was Rs 982, the driver allegedly demanded Rs 1,450.

When she questioned the excess charge and insisted on paying the amount which was shown on the app, Nagesh allegedly refused to return her luggage unless she paid the higher fare. The woman further alleged that he used abusive language, threatened her, and attempted to intimidate her.

She then called the emergency helpline 112 and reported the overcharging and misconduct. A Hoysala patrol team reached the spot and tried to resolve the issue. However, the accused allegedly abused Assistant Sub-Inspector Narasayanaswamy during the intervention.

As the woman had a flight to catch, the ASI subsequently filed a complaint. A case was registered against the accused, who was arrested and remanded to judicial custody.

Makali godowns blaze: Property gutted, 5 injured

BENGALURU: Five men sustained injuries after a massive fire broke out in perfume warehouse in Makali under the Madanayakanahalli police station limits on Sunday morning. The fire also spread to adjacent godowns, causing extensive property damage. The police said that the fire broke out around 11.30am in the perfume warehouse and soon spread to neighbouring godowns storing air conditioners, processed dog food, and gas cylinders. A major disaster was averted as the gas cylinders were shifted immediately. Five Fire and Emergency Services personnel were pressed into service. The flames were brought under control after prolonged efforts. The fire is suspected to be caused by a short circuit. **ENS**

Woman files plaint, Snehamayi booked in new case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

RTI activist Snehamayi Krishna, who was arrested by CCB police for allegedly circulating fabricated documents on social media, was booked in another case. A fresh FIR was registered against him at Basaveshwaranagar police station on Saturday.

Krishna was questioned overnight for allegedly circulating fabricated documents against former MUDA Commissioner GB Natesh, and was later released on Saturday.

Based on a complaint filed by Pavithra BN (37), a resident of LIC Colony, an FIR was registered against Krishna and former Bengaluru University professor Mylarappa BC. In the FIR, Pavithra states that on the evening of December 5, 2025, she received a letter at her residence, which allegedly contained defamatory statements about her late husband and her advocate Raghu. It referred to a complaint filed at Mahalakshmipuram police station seeking reinvestigation into her husband's death. She further alleged that a threat note was enclosed in the letter, pressuring her to withdraw cases filed against Mylarappa. The letter reportedly contained a mobile number and included threats and abusive language.

She stated that the accused's actions caused her severe distress, adversely affected her children's education, disturbed the peace at her residence, and created fear for her safety. Based on the complaint, the police initially registered a Non-Cognizable Report (NCR) on December 6, 2025. After obtaining permission from court, an FIR was registered against Snehamayi Krishna and Mylarappa under Sections 351 (criminal intimidation) and 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) of the BNS.

IN THE COURT OF III ADDL PRL JUDGE FAMILY COURT, BENGALURU AT BENGALURU
NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (GENERAL FORM)
G & WC. No. 347/2025
MR. ABDULLAH SAHEB BAIG -V/s-
MRS. SHANAZ BEGUM
NEXT DATE: 27/04/2026

To, Mrs. Shanaz Begum, W/O Mr. Abdulla Saheb Baig, Aged about 29 yrs, R/at, 167 3rd Cross, Kothanur Main Road Harinagar, Bengaluru South, Anjanapura, Bengaluru-560062.

Whereas in the above named petitioner has made a petition to this court that U/s 7, 9, 17 & 25 of G and WC Act 1890. You are hereby directed to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on the **27/04/2026** at **11:00 O' Clock** in the forenoon to show cause against the petition, failing wherein, the said petition will be heard and determined ex-parte as per law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 18/02/2026

By order of the Court, Sheristedar, Family Court, Bengaluru

LegalCook Advocates and Solicitors
OMRAN KHAN, MURTUZA ALI BAIG, SHOAIB M. SANGTRASH, Advocates
#204, Centre Point Building, 2nd Floor, 1st Cross Residency road, Bengaluru- 560 025
Email: www.legalcook.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
LOST OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that my client, Mr. M. Sudhakara, S/o. Late M. Nagayya Sherugar, residing at No. 12, Usha, 2nd Cross, 5th Main, Venkatarangapuram, Palace Guttahalli, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560 003, is the absolute owner of the immovable property being a Residential House bearing Site No. 12, BBMP Property No. 12. EPID No. 2479986779, situated at 2nd Cross, 5th Main Road, Venkatarangapuram, Palace Guttahalli, Bengaluru-560003, presently within BBMP Ward No. 64-Rajamahal, measuring East to West: 7.6 mtrs or 25 ft and North to South: 10.7 mtrs or 35 ft, totally measuring 81.3 sq.mtrs or 875 sq.ft, together with a residential building comprising of Ground Floor having super built up area of 833 sq.ft. First Floor having super built up area of 833 sq.ft., Second Floor having super built up area of 833 sq.ft, and Third Floor having super built up area of 500 sq.ft, totally having super built up area of 278.8 sq.mtrs or 3000 sq.ft, and the following Original Document pertaining to the aforementioned property has been lost in transit and in that regard a Lost Article Report bearing No.2073386/2026 dated: 20-02-2026 has been lodged online and inspite of that, the said original document has not been traced till date.

1. Sale Deed dated: 27-05-1974 which is registered as Document No. 931/1974-75.

The finder of the said original document may handover the same to the undersigned and will be suitably rewarded.

Sd/- **Sri. S. K. Nagaraj,** Advocate
No.22, 1st Floor, Yamuna Bai Road, Madhavanagar, Bengaluru-560 001.
Mob: 98450 12528
Bengaluru Date : 20-02-2026

(CCH-44) Hearing Date: 24/03/26
IN THE COURT OF THE VI ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU
O.S. No. 6955/2010

BETWEEN : 1. Smt. Hombamma and others Rep. by GPA Holder Smt. Renuka Manoj, Aged about 54 Years, R/at No.424, 18th Cross, Sarswathinagar, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040. **...Plaintiffs**

AND : Hombanna by LR Thukarama **...Defendants**

SUMMONS/NOTICE TO PROPOSED DEFENDANT No.4, UNDER ORDER V RULE 20(1) OF C.P.C AS PER IA No.

Proposed Defendant No. 4 : Smt. H. Indira, Aged about 48 years, W/o B.L. Lakshmipathi, D/o late Hombanna, R/at Mallathahalli Extention, Jnana Bharathi Main Road, Balegangadhar Nagar, Bangalore-560056.

Whereas, the above named Plaintiffs have filed the above suit against your father seeking relief of declaration and permanent injunction against you in addition to the relief of partition amongst themselves with respect to the suit schedule property, and since your father who is the defendant has demised and his LRs have to be brought on record, and you who being his daughter is substituted as Proposed Defendant No.4 as mentioned above are hereby summoned to appear before this Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and to answer all material questions relating to the suit, the **24th day of March 2026 at 11 o' Clock,** failing which the matter shall be heard and decided in your absence.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy. No. 32, measuring 2 acres 22 guntas, situated at Srigandakaval Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk and bounded on:

East by: Rangappa's Land, **West by:** Anadanappa's Land, **North by:** Rudramma's Land, **South by:** Venkatagiriyappa's Land.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this 17th day of February 2026 at Bengaluru.

By Order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients **(1) Sri. Vinay H.S.** S/o. Sri. H.M. Somashekharappa, Aged about 41 Years, **(2) Smt. Anusha K.** W/o. Sri. Vinay H.S. Aged about 32 Years, both are R/at No. 51, Flat No.1, Syndicate Bank Layout, Heroahalli, Vishwaneedam Post, Bengaluru - 560 091. **(3) Sri. Rajegowda S.T.** S/o. Sri. Thotegowda, Aged about 42 Years, R/at No.69, Byreshwara Industrial Estate, Vishwaneedam Post, Hegganahalli, Bengaluru-560 091. **(4) Smt. Ashwini H.J.** W/o. Sri. Muralidhar C.D. Aged about 40 Years, R/at Flat No.704, 1st Block, Skyncity Apartment, Near Chandralayout Bus Depo, Maruthinagar, Chandralayout, Nagarabhavi 1st Stage, Bengaluru - 560 072, is intend to purchase the below mentioned schedule property belonging to **(1) Sri. H. Srinivas,** Aged about 52 Years, S/o. Sri. Hanumantharayappa, **(2) Meghana H.S.** Aged about 21 Years, D/o. Sri. H. Srinivasa, **(3) Ramya H.S.** Aged about 19 Years, D/o. Sri. H. Srinivasa, all are R/at Hegganahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru - 560 091, having title to the Property concerned as per the documents verified.

Any person or persons asserting any rights, title or claim in the schedule property in any manner or the documents thereof or objecting to such sale in favour of our client should write to the undersigned within **7 (Seven) Days** from the date of issuance of the Public Notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to the schedule property. The claims and objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and thereafter my client shall proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claimants/ objections to the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece & parcel of the bearing Site No.37, Assessment No.37, New EPID No. 1113646271, Situated at Hegganahalli Village, Sanjiveeni Nagar, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, presently comes under the Limits of Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Ward No.71-Hegganahalli, measuring East to West : Northern Side-77 Feet, Southern Side : 91 Feet, i.e., East to West : 84 Feet or 25.6 Meter, North to South : 75 Feet or 22.9 Meter, totally measuring 6300 Square Feet or 585.3 Square Meter and bounded on :-

East by : Property belongs to S. Krishnappa, West by : Road, North by : Property belongs to Sriram, South by : Property belongs to Venkatesh.

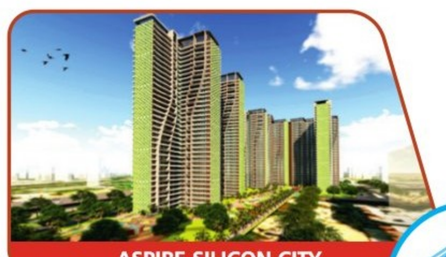
C.H. SRINIVASA, Advocate
No. L-114, 1st Floor, Maruthi Market, Avenue Road, Bengaluru - 560 002.
Mobile No. 94482 37408 Date: 21.02.2026

HON'BLE SUPREME COURT MONITORED HOUSING PROJECTS THROUGH LD. COURT RECEIVER
Executed by **NBCC (India) Limited**

NBCC A Navratna CPSE | ASPIRE

Bulk Sale of inventory through e-Auction

Aspire Silicon City
Ph-IV, Sec-76, Noida, UP
- 4BHK & Duplex Spacious Apartments with modern amenities.
- Near Spectrum Mall, Noida Nearest metro stations are Noida Sec-50 (Aqua Line) & Sec-76 Metro and Anand Vihar ISBT & Railway Station-25 min.


ASPIRE SILICON CITY

ASPIRE LEISURE PARK

Aspire Leisure Park
Techzone-IV, Greater Noida (W), UP
- Inventory-3BHK & 4BHK spacious apartments with modern amenities.
- Near D-Mart and Anand Vihar ISBT & Railway Station-30 Min.

Aspire Leisure Valley
Techzone-IV, Greater Noida (W), UP
- Inventory-3BHK & 4BHK spacious apartments with modern amenities.
- Near D-Mart and Anand Vihar ISBT & Railway Station-35 min.

ASPIRE LEISURE VALLEY

ASPIRE CENTURIAN PARK

Aspire Centurian Park
Techzone-IV, Greater Noida (W), UP
- Inventory-3BHK & 4BHK spacious apartments with modern amenities.
- Near D-Mart and Anand Vihar ISBT & Railway Station-30 min.

Last date of submission of EMD: 27.02.2026 | E-auction will be held on: 28.02.2026 | EMD Rs.9.70 Cr. to Rs. 20.90 Cr. | 6 Packages Ranging from Rs. 485 Cr. to Rs. 1,045 Cr.

Please scan this QR for e-auction document

For more details, please visit our website: www.nbccindia.in | www.receiveramrapali.in
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KAMARAJAR PORT LIMITED
(A COMPANY OF CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY)
NO.17, JAWAHAR BUILDING, RAJAJI SALAI, CHENNAI - 600 001.
CIN: U45203TN1999PLC043322

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Tenders are invited in two cover system from the experienced contractors through e-procurement mode for the work **"Capital Dredging for Container Terminal Phase-I Stage-II (AECTPL) and its associated dredging at Kamarajar Port".**

Estimate value - Rs.73,81,63,458/- (Excluding GST)

Due date for submission of Tender is 16.03.2026

For details, amendments if any visit our Website:
www.kamarajarport.in or **www.eprocure.gov.in**

General Manager (CS & BD) i/c

MUTHOOT PAPPACHAN CHITS (INDIA) PVT LTD | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Head Office : Ground Flr, Lions Centre, Kowdiar Ave, Jawahar Nagar, Kowdiar, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala 695003. CIN:U65992KL2012PTC032248

Notice hereby given that gold ornaments pledged as security by subscribers of various chit numbers with under mentioned branches of the company in different location of Karnataka are liable for auction due to default in payment of chit dues, despite repeated notices. The pledged gold ornaments will be auctioned as per the schedule mentioned below, in accordance with terms and conditions.

Place of auction centre , date and time

TILAKNAGAR – BANGALORE: Auction Centre: First Floor, FFK Towers, 39, 30th Cross, Swagath Road, Tilaknagar, Near Sagar Hospital, Bangalore – 560041. Auction Date: 03.03.2026, Time: 10.00 AM onwards.

Chittal Nos.: **A2/74/2019/3 (Pledge - MPC/PL/F1863/3629), A2/77/2019/34 (Pledge -MPC/PL/F1863/4272), A2/72/2019/33 (Pledge - MPC/PL/F1863/3261)**

If auction is not conducted on the above date for any reason, the same will be conducted on 14.03.2026 at 10.00 AM onwards at Second Auction Centre: First Floor, Narayana Reddy Building, 2223, CMH Road Opp Metro Pillar 93, Beside Lakshmipuram Grevard, Bangalore – 560008.

For Muthoot Pappachan Chits (India) Pvt Ltd Authorised Auctioner

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Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd.
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS EQUITAS FINANCE LTD.)
Registered Office: No.769, Spencer Plaza, 4th Floor, Phase-II, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002

POSSESSION NOTICE (U/s. Rule 8 (1) - for immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest [Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)] and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with [Rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the below mentioned Borrowers to repay the total outstanding amount mentioned in the notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. Since the below mentioned Borrowers having failed to repay the below stated amount within the stipulated time, notice is hereby given to the below mentioned borrowers and the public in general that, the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the schedule mentioned properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited and further interest and other charges thereon." The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub –section (8) of section 13 of the Act, inrespect of time available, to redeem the secured assets."

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Symbolic Possession Date
1	Branch: Channapatna 700010137820 Borrower: Mr/Mrs. Lakshmamma N Co-Borrower: Mr/Mrs. Devaraju N	All The Piece And Parcel Of The Immovable Schedule Property No.152900401901920183 Katha No.172, Situated At Ibbalakahalli Village, Lakshmipura Gramapanchayath, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara. Measuring East To West 6.4008 Mtr (21 Feet), North To South 12.4968 Mtr (41 Feet), Total Extent 79.99 Sq Mtr (861 Sq Ft) Built Up Area 79.99 Sq Mtr And Do Exists., North by : Govt Road,South by : Own Property, East by : Own Vacant Site,West by : House Of Mrs. Kamalamma.	30.10.2025 531549	18.02.2026

Date: 23.02.2026, Place: Bangalore — Authorized Officer, Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd.

Belagavi city police have clarified that the black stains noticed on the statue of freedom fighter Krantiveer Sangolli Rayanna near Peeranwadi were not the result of vandalism but caused by natural tree resin

Minors should not be behind the wheel. Yet, time and again, reckless youth kill themselves and others, throwing caution to the wind on roads. How do we then apply the brakes on a fatal course? While police warn parents against giving vehicles to their minor children, experts say with strict regulation, scientific licensing and sustained behavioural change, the number of accidents could be curbed

TIME FOR A CRASH COURSE IN SAFE DRIVING

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

BIG PICTURE

ONUS ON PARENTS TO PREVENT UNDERAGE DRIVING

PRAVEEN KUMAR @Bengaluru

ON Friday, February 13, parents of seven youngsters, including five minor boys, woke up to the most painful news of their lives. Till the police called them, the parents were under the belief that their children were at home and sleeping in their rooms. The horrific accident happened on the access-controlled Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) expressway between Hoskote and Devanahalli near Kambalipura, between 4.30am and 4.45am, involving a brand new XUV700, a bike and a Canter. Shockingly, the person driving the XUV was a minor boy aged 17.

After this incident, the police department has kept a strict vigil on underage riders/drivers. Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh has warned parents not to give vehicle keys to underage children. "Driving below the legally permitted age is a violation of the law. Parents who fail in this are directly or indirectly, contributing to serious and sometimes fatal road accidents. The recent tragic accident near Hoskote underscores the gravity of the issue," the commissioner said.

To address such issues, a topic on road safety has been included in school textbooks. Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy said special drives have been conducted since Tuesday. He added that any vehicle found being driven by a minor will be seized. The vehicle owner and parent will be produced before court, and appropriate legal action will be initiated.

PH Rane, Chief Traffic Warden, said underage riding/driving is a serious issue. Minors do it after getting influenced by watching videos on social media. "Our 100-plus trained traffic wardens, along with traffic police, go to schools and educate children about traffic rules and regulations. One topic they focus on is underage riding/driving and its consequences. I have instructed all traffic wardens to list out the names of schools in their areas. Then we speak to the principals or managements about conducting traffic programmes. Classes on traffic awareness will be done immediately after the commencement schools. There is an engineering division which makes drawings of accident spots, which will be shown to students during the programme. Parents' role in this is important. They must keep vehicle keys in their custody, and monitor the activities of their children and also be aware of their whereabouts and who they are with," said Rane, who is also a retired Inspector General of Police (IGP).

Traffic expert Prof MN Sreehari blamed parents for the situation. "We have seen parents making their children sit on their laps while driving or giving control of their two-wheelers while riding. Even as gifts, most parents give toy cars or jeeps to children and with such early age influence, children tend to take vehicles on to public roads. The traffic police are already understaffed, and cannot regularly check for underage driving," he said.

> *We have seen parents making their children sit on their laps while driving or giving control of their two-wheelers while riding*
>
> **Prof MN Sreehari, traffic expert**

SCARY NUMBERS

Around 62 cases of underage driving were registered till the second week of February this year, according to traffic police statistics. In 2025, at least 414 cases were registered; 197 cases were registered in 2024, 95 cases in 2023, and 192 cases were registered in 2022.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

As per Section 199 the Indian Motor Vehicle Act, if a minor drives, the guardian or owner of the vehicle is considered guilty, and faces up to three years imprisonment, Rs 25,000 fine and three-year suspension of the registration certificate. The minor will be tried under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, and will not be eligible to get a driving licence until the age of 25.

Can scientific tests, strict licensing curb road accidents?

INDRA S @Bengaluru

DESPITE structured initiatives such as National Road Safety Month campaigns, targeted interventions for vulnerable road users, and the introduction of scientific driving tests, road accidents involving minors and young riders persist. The trend has raised serious concern, highlighting gaps in training, weak hazard perception, underage driving, and unsafe riding practices that undermine enforcement and awareness efforts. While enforcement is questioned, authorities maintain that prevention begins much earlier — at the licensing stage and through sustained behavioural change.

SCIENTIFIC LICENSING: THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE

The issuance of driving licences is governed by the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989. These laws incorporate strict procedural safeguards to ensure only competent drivers are permitted on the roads.

Scientific driving tests mandated under Rule 15 of the CMVR include computerised test tracks, automated evaluation of manoeuvres, and elimination of human discretion. Before obtaining a permanent licence, applicants must pass a mandatory learner's test under Rule 11, covering traffic signs, road rules and defensive driving principles. Minimum age, medical fitness, and vision standards directly address common factors in youth-related accidents and prevent underage drivers from legally driving in traffic. Licensing is vehicle-class specific, ensuring drivers operate only the vehicles they are trained for.

Karnataka's shift to Automated Driving Test Tracks (ADTTs) has strengthened skill-based licensing and reduced unsafe practices such as wrong-lane driving and poor braking control.

BEYOND REVENUE: A COORDINATED SAFETY FRAMEWORK

Beyond licensing, the role of the Karnataka Transport Department and Karnataka State Road Safety Authority (KSRSA) extends far beyond enforcement. Under the Karnataka State Road Safety Authority Act and Rules, KSRSA serves as the nodal body for road safety. Its mandate includes policy formulation, inter-departmental coordination, data-driven planning, engineering improvements and public awareness — ensuring that accident prevention is treated as a governance and public health priority.

The transport department enforces licensing standards, vehicle fitness and permit conditions, while supporting technology-based enforcement. Penalties and fees are regulatory tools to deter unsafe behaviour; revenue generation is incidental, not the objective.

The department has multiple awareness programmes chalked out, with focus areas that include helmet and seatbelt compliance, preventing drunk and distracted driving and behavioural change.

For young and first-time drivers, awareness plays a critical role. KSRSA conducts statewide campaigns during National Road Safety Month each January-February, organising programmes in schools, colleges, transport hubs and industrial areas. Focus areas include helmet and seatbelt compliance, speed management, and prevention of drunk and distracted driving.

Special drives target vulnerable road users such as two-wheeler riders, pedestrians, school children and commercial drivers. Campaigns leverage social media, newspapers, television, cinema theatres, billboards and LED screens to highlight pressing road safety concerns. Particular emphasis is placed on pillion helmet usage, night-time visibility and defensive riding — areas often linked to youth accidents.

KSRSA notes improved helmet compliance and positive behavioural shifts following sustained campaigns. Authorities say that while awareness alone cannot eliminate accidents, it is only when combined with engineering, enforcement and education, that it forms a critical pillar of Karnataka's road safety strategy.

Bring in cultural shift to value safety over speed

GAYATHRI M KURUP @Bengaluru

PSYCHOTECHNICAL and psychometric testing have been often proposed as tools to improve road safety. However, mental health experts caution that while such assessments can evaluate certain abilities, they are not a comprehensive solution to unsafe driving.

Dr Vyjayanthi NV, Consultant Psychiatrist at Ramaiah Memorial Hospital, explains that psychotechnical tests can measure coordination, visual range, attention and reaction time, all essential for safe driving. These tools may help determine whether a licensed driver has the cognitive and motor skills required to be on the road.

Yet, she stresses that such tests occur in controlled environments and cannot account for real-world variables. Stress, peer pressure, intoxication, fatigue, or emotional distress can impair judgment even in individuals who perform well in testing conditions. People tend to behave more cautiously during assessments than in everyday situations, limiting the predictive value of these tests.

From a developmental perspective, adolescence itself presents unique risks. The frontal cortex responsible for impulse control and risk assessment continues to mature into early adulthood. Teenagers, therefore, often underestimate danger and overestimate their ability to handle risky situations. This developmental reality underpins legal age restrictions for driving; when minors bypass these safeguards, they operate vehicles before their cognitive maturity supports safe decision-making.

Counselling psychologist Ann Treesa Rafi further cautions against attributing accidents to individual psychological traits alone. Psychometric tests can assess personality patterns, mood disorders or behavioural tendencies, but they cannot capture the complex social environment influencing adolescents. Family dynamics, peer norms, media exposure, school culture and policy enforcement all shape behaviour on the road.

"It would be erroneous to assume accidents occur because of a single psychological trait," she emphasised. While screening may identify a small percentage of high-risk individuals, such as those with severe antisocial tendencies, it cannot prevent a majority of incidents. At best, such testing can complement broader preventive measures rather than replace them.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND POWER OF MODELLING

While testing has limitations, experts agree that family environments play a crucial role in shaping young people's attitudes toward road safety. Psychologists emphasise that adolescents learn road behaviour primarily through observation and social influence, rather than formal instruction.

Counselling psychologist Shayna Sunu highlights that young people internalise what they see adults doing on the road. When parents ignore signals, skip helmets, or treat speed limits casually, these behaviours become normalised. "We learn from our parents, how they drive shapes how we drive," she noted, adding that responsible model behaviour is one of the most effective preventive tools. Wearing helmets and seatbelts, using indicators, and respecting traffic rules communicate that safety is non-negotiable.

Rafi adds that explaining why safety measures matter is equally important. Many teenagers wear helmets only to avoid fines, not because they understand the life-saving protection they provide. When adolescents recognise that traffic laws exist to protect lives, their own and others', compliance becomes rooted in responsibility rather than fear.

Both experts caution against control-heavy parenting approaches. Strict rules imposed without dialogue may push risky behaviour underground, with teenagers hiding actions such as taking out vehicles without permission. In contrast, open communication enables parents to discuss consequences, set expectations, and guide safer decision-making. Creating an environment where adolescents feel safe to share their choices allows parents to intervene before risks escalate.

Rafi says parents should avoid assuming sole blame when accidents occur. Adolescents are shaped by multiple influences like peers who glorify speed, media portrayals of stunts, school environments, and broader societal attitudes toward road safety. Holding parents entirely responsible ignores these systemic factors and oversimplifies a complex issue. At the same time, both psychologists agree that parents remain a powerful protective factor. Building trust, discussing legal age restrictions, monitoring access to vehicles, and encouraging safer outlets for thrill-seeking, such as sports or creative pursuits, can significantly reduce risky behaviour. These measures do not eliminate experimentation, a normal part of adolescence, but they foster accountability and informed decision-making.

Ultimately, accidents involving minors reflect a larger ecosystem rather than isolated failures. Psychotechnical tests may offer limited insights, but meaningful prevention requires coordinated efforts, responsible modelling by adults, open family communication, school-based awareness, consistent law enforcement, and a cultural shift that values safety over speed.

Dr G MEETS HDK, CM, CREATES BUZZ

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

HOME Minister Dr G Parameshwara reportedly met Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy at a private hotel on Saturday, according to sources. Parameshwara also met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The timing of these meetings coincided with PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi and former cooperation minister KN Rajanna calling on AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge in Delhi.

Rajanna has been vociferous said that if it is inevitable that Siddaramaiah should step down as chief minister, Parameshwara, a Dalit, should be considered for the top post.

In Madikeri, Social Welfare Minister Dr HC Mahadevappa said on Sunday that while Siddaramaiah should continue as CM, a Dalit leader should succeed him. Mahadevappa has also thrown his hat in the ring, sources said.

Meanwhile, Shivakumar's supporters are confident that the high command will summon both him and Siddaramaiah to Delhi soon, possibly before the budget session starts on March 6, to take a decision on power transfer. "Parameshwara might have met the Union minister with regard to development work in his constituency Koratagere," was DCM Shivakumar's take on the issue.

ASSAM VISIT

Did not discuss politics with Priyanka, says Shivakumar

SHUT UP: DKS TO HIS CAMP

Manjugini: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday told Congress MLAs to keep their "mouth shut" on the leadership tussle in the Congress government. With most MLAs in the Siddaramaiah camp away on foreign trips, Shivakumar cautioned his supporters not to say anything in public. "I will ask them (MLAs) where they had been, but for now do not open your mouth," he said.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

Stressing that his Delhi visit was a normal affair, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday maintained that he did not discuss state politics with AICC General Secretary and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during his visit to Assam.

"I don't talk about politics anywhere and everywhere. It is not something that can be discussed in public," Shivakumar, who is an AICC observer for the upcoming Assembly polls in Assam, told reporters.

Asked about leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the India-US trade deal, he said, "Rahul Gandhi will do whatever is needed to protect the interest of the country. The trade deal with the US will have an adverse impact on the farmers of our country. As a leader of opposition, Gandhi will raise all these issues."

Cong convention against G RAM G today, CM, DCM, Surjewala to attend

V VELAYUDHAM @Chikkaballapur

CONGRESS is organising a mega-convention at Chikkaballapur on Monday to push back against the VB-G RAM G Act passed by the Centre, replacing the UPA-era MGNREGA.

Around 60,000 people, including Congress workers and leaders, from Bengaluru Rural, Chikkaballapur and Kolar districts are expected to take part in the protest rally, said Higher Education and District in-charge Minister Dr MC Sudhakar, who is overseeing preparations for the programme.

"AICC General Secretary and Karnataka Congress in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, DCM and KPCC President DK Shivakumar and ministers will address the gathering," he told The New Indian Express.

Minister MC Sudhakar inspects preparations for the convention in Chikkaballapur

The event is scheduled to start at 11 am and conclude by 2 pm. "All arrangements have been made. There is a seating capacity for 50,000 people along with food counters. Such a massive programme is being held in the state for the first time and it will also be one of the largest political gatherings in the region in recent months," he said.

Congress is whipping up its opposition to the VB-G RAM G Act into a major political issue in the run-up to zilla and taluk panchayat polls, as it intensifies statewide agitation against the legislation that replaced the MGNREGA.

An elderly couple died by suicide by jumping in front of a moving train in Hassan on Saturday. The deceased, David (80) and his wife Mary (73) from Kodagu were living in an old age home despite owning a house and coffee estate. The couple's elder son works in Bengaluru while the younger lives separately in Virajpet. The police said the sons had neglected them for a few months.

VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS

TIMING CONCERNS FOR B'LURU-GOA ROUTE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE proposed introduction of the Vande Bharat Express by South Western Railways (SWR) between Bengaluru and Madgaon in Goa with an estimated travel time of nearly 13 hours, which is awaiting approval from the Railway Board, has sparked debate among commuters and railway experts over its practicality and affordability.

Citizens have questioned whether the premium service would offer a significant time advantage over existing trains and other travel options. Railway experts say that though the proposal is welcome, the travel time and pricing require careful reconsideration. "There is no doubt that Vande Bharat is feasible. However, it is a premium train and may not be affordable for everyone," said rail expert Sanjeev Dyammanavar. He pointed out that Goa, being a major tourist hub, sees substantial passenger movement from Bengaluru and north Karnataka districts such as Hubballi, Dharwad and Belagavi.

The existing Vande Bharat service between Bengaluru and Belagavi takes around nine to 10 hours. If extended or diverted towards Goa via Londa, the journey is expected to take between 10 and 11.5 hours. "Very early departures, such as 4 am, may not be convenient for tourists," he noted.

A daytime service would mean passengers reach Goa only by evening, losing an entire day. An overnight train departing Bengaluru around 6 pm or 7 pm and arriving in Goa by 7 am would help save time.

Rail activist Krishna Prasad said a 12 to 13 hour journey may cause discomfort. "Travel time should ideally be kept under 11 hours. For such long distances, a sleeper configuration would be more practical," he said.

Lalbiaknia nullifies Sánchez as BFC, NEUFC draw 1-1

SAPTARSHI C @ Bengaluru

IN a fiercely contested encounter at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, Bengaluru FC (BFC) and NorthEast United FC (NEUFC) shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw, marking a competitive start to their campaigns this season.

After coming off a convincing 2-0 win over Sporting Club Delhi in their opener, BFC started brightly in front of their fortress. The Blues took the lead in the 20th minute through a clinical finish from Braian Sánchez. The Argentine midfielder latched onto a well-constructed move, slotting home with composure to give his side the advantage. BFC's Ryan Williams was a standout performer, showcasing his versatility by excelling across the pitch — from shoring up the defensive line to driving the attack as a midfielder. His powerful effort crashed against the crossbar, denying the hosts a dramatic finish.

The away team, NEUFC, Juan Pedro Benali's boys, showed resilience throughout the match. Despite trailing, the Highlanders grew into the game, particularly after halftime. It was because of 'the wall of BFC' that Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, who was called into action, notably denied a header from Asheer.

Teams	BP*	Corners	On target
BFC	53%	9	2
NEUFC	47%	5	6

* Ball possession

The equaliser arrived in the 68th minute when substitute Lalrinzuala Lalbiaknia produced a moment of brilliance. His composed, high-quality strike levelled the scores. It marked Lalbiaknia's first ISL goal, injecting belief into the visitors and capping a strong fightback. "We knew BFC's backline gets shaky when the ball comes into the box — they hesitate and lose clarity on their man marking. That's exactly what we targeted: putting balls into those areas and pressing for fouls and set pieces. We spotted it in the first half and tweaked the plan in the dressing room at the break," Benali said.

However, in the absence of Rahul Bheke, due to his knee injury, BFC was clearly struggling at the back, with their defensive line looking unsettled for large parts of the game.

Players like Sunil Chhetri, Ryan Williams and BFC head coach Renedy Singh were visibly animated on the sidelines throughout the match. The coach said calmly, "I'm happy with the team's performance."

New record: Karwar foresters rescue 6 pythons in a day

Foresters rescue an Indian rock python on Sunday | EXPRESS

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS @ Karwar

Foresters Gopal Naik D and Rajesh Naik rescued six Indian rock pythons from abandoned centring sheets dumped on the premises of a house in Karwar on the same day.

Vikay Thalekar, resident of Kateenkon, Karwar informed Naik about the presence of the reptiles in his garden. "We first saw one rock python. It was not less than 12 feet in length and weighing close to 40kg. Then we found another when we moved some pipes. To our surprise, there were more of them coiled inside the pipes. We have never rescued more than two snakes at a time. This was something we were unable to believe," he told *TNIE*.

Rock pythons are a non-venomous species and started appearing in Karwar town during monsoon after the forest areas and lakes were cleared.

EXPRESS READ

8-yr-old dies after swallowing Ludo coin

Mangaluru: An 8-year-old girl accidentally swallowed a Ludo game coin and died by suffocation in Ullal near Mangaluru on Saturday. The deceased, Tanushka, was playing Ludo with her brother and a sister when she accidentally swallowed the cone-shaped coin and suffocated. The plastic coin was found lodged in her lungs during post-mortem.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

E-Auction Sale of Properties on 11.03.2026

Last date of EMD : 10.03.2026

ARM-1 Branch, 2nd Floor, No.86, Spencers Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001. Ph: 080-25310066. E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 11.03.2026, Sl.No.(1) (10.00 AM to 10.30 AM), Sl.No.(2) (10:30 AM to 11:00 PM),** through E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (https://baanknet.com/) e- mail: support.ebkray@psballiance.com Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **10.03.2026 - 5.00 pm.** (₹. in lakhs)

Lot No	Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the movable / immovable assets:	Total Dues Type of Possession	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection date & time
1.	**(1) M/s. Bangalore Tiles India Pvt. ltd.,** No.13/09/10, HSMI Estate, 2nd Stage, 5th Cross, okalipuram Bengaluru, Karnataka-560021. **(2) Mr Sunil Gandhi,** No.35/1 Ranka Nest Appartment Flat No.231 3rd Floor Okalipuram Bangalore-560021. **(3) Mr Rajesh Gandhi,** No.35/1 Ranka Nest Appartment, Flat No.231, 3rd Floor, Okalipuram Bangalore 560021.	Commercial Land and Building Constructed as basement + GF + FF + SF + terrace floor, Corporation Property No.13/9/10, BBMP No.13/9-10 Labour Quarter No.18,HSMI Estate 2nd Stage, 5th Cross, Okalipuram, BBMP Ward No.21, Bangalore-560021. Total Extent of the Plot 2528 Sq.ft. Bounded: East by: Hansha Shah's Property, West by : Maithri Plastics, North by: Dinesh Kothari's Property, South by: Road. **Coordinates of the property: Latitude- 12.984452, Longitude- 77.566663**	**Rs. 5,89,40,658.02 as on 18.02.2026 with further interest and cost thereon.**	**a) 305.00 b) 30.50 c) 1.00**	**27.02.2026 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer**
2.	**(1) Kwikfix Hospitality Pvt Ltd,** Plot No. 8A, Attibele Industrial Area, Anekal, Bangalore-562107. Also at Plot No.120, Export Promational Industrial Park (EPIP), Whitefield, Bangalore-560066. **(2) Sri Manoj Thyagaraj** S/o Thyagaraj K M, **(3) Mrs. Judy Sweena Kamal** W/o Manoj Thyagaraj, **Both are residing at:** Shraddha Tulip, A Block, AECS Layout, Kundanahalli, Whitefield, Bangalore-560037. **(4) Sri Thyagaraj K M,** S/o Sri Muniswamappa, No. 404, 5th Main, 5th Cross,1st Stage, 3rd Block, Bangalore North-560043. **(5) Sri ChristpherJames Alphose** S/o Sri Anthony Swamy, T-3, Adharsha Hotel, 3rd Floor, 1st main Gopala Reddy Layout, Bangalore-560043.	Residential flat No A-3, 3rd Floor of the apartment known as SRADDHA TULIP having super built up area of 2100 Sft. with one covered car parking space and 414 Sft. of UDS in landed property bearing converted Site no. 3, Mahadevapura CMC Katha no. 448, and converted site bearing nos. 4 & 5, Mahadevapura CMC Katha No. 449, situated at Jayaram Reddy Layout Kundalahalli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk measuring 5040 Sq.ft. standing in the name of Smt Judy Sweena Kamal. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 12.57565N, Longitude- 77.42460E**	**Rs. 15,67,42,247.19 as on 17.02.2026 with further interest and cost thereon.**	**a) ₹. 158.00 b) ₹. 15.80 c) ₹.1.00**	**27.02.2026 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer**

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website **(www.canarabank.com)** or **https://baanknet.com** may contact **Chief Manager, ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.080-25310066, 6381952519 & 9483544116** during office hours on any working day.

Date : 19.02.2026
Place: Bangalore

Sd/-
Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम — A Government of India Undertaking
सिंडिकेट Syndicate

BENGALURU

E-AUCTION NOTICE

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION (ONLINE AUCTION) UNDER RULES 8(6) & (9) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein, taken possession under the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, will be sold by inviting tenders on the following terms & conditions. E auction arranged by the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (BAANKNET)** through the website **https://baanknet.com/**

Sl. No.	1)Name of the Borrower / Guarantor(s) 2)Name of the Branch and Secured Creditor	1) Secured Debt outstanding 2) Reserve Price 3) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount	1) Last date of deposit of EMD 2) Last date of KYC documents 3) EMD A/c no. 4) Bid Factor	1. Date of Auction 2. Time of Auction 3. Date & Time of Inspection
1	1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) : 1. M/s. URS SAFERYDE LLP 2. Mr. RAKESH RAJE URS K (Partner and Guarantor of M/S. URS SAFERYDE LLP) S/O. G KRISHNE URS, 3. Mr. RISHI R URS (Partner and Guarantor of M/S. URS SAFERYDE LLP) S/O K RAKESH RAJE URS 4. MRS. MAYA B SRIDHAR (Guarantor of M/S. URS SAFERYDE LLP) **All are at :** No 22 Srikantan Layout, Crescent Road Cross Kumara Park East, High Grounds, Bangalore 560001. 2) Canara Bank - **Madhavnagar Branch Mob. No. 9500457809, 9483510788**	**1) Rs. 5,68,69,107.14** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.**	1) 12.03.2026 upto 5.00 pm 2) 12.03.2026 upto 6.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 5,00,000/-	**1. 13.03.2026 2. 11.00 am to 12.00 pm 3. 11.03.2026 10.00 am to 4.00 pm**

Description of the immovable/ movable assets: SCHEDULE-A1 PROPERTY:
(Description of entire property on which dwelling units comprising of ground, first and second floor are constructed) :
All that piece and parcel of residential property earlier bearing site No.17 formed in premises number 8 of erstwhile Crescent Road, High grounds, Bangalore subsequently bearing Municipal No.22,PID No.77-101-22 New No.33,1st Main, Srikanthan Layout, Bangalore measuring east to west 40 feet, north to south on the eastern side 70 feet, on the western side 86 ½ feet in all measuring about 3130 square feet along with three car parking slots in the ground floor together with building comprising of ground, first and second floor each measuring about 1150sft and entire property bounded on the **East by :** Site No.18 (Old Number), **West by :** Site No.16 (Old Number), **North b y :** Storm water drain and **South by :** Road.
SCHEDULE-B1 PROPERTY : (Description of property being mortgage owned by Smt Maya B Sridhar)
All that piece and parcel of residential unit on the SECOND FLOOR constructed on Schedule A1 Property bearing bifurcated Municipal No.22/2,PID No.77-101-22/2 with a super built up area of 1150 square feet (SBA) along with one car garage on the western side in the ground floor measuring about 150 Sft. Along with 1/3rd undivided ownership share, right title and interest in the site of schedule 'A' property amounting to 782.5 sft(UDS) with right to use the common amenities and proportionate share in common areas like ingress, egress areas and other such common areas of schedule A property. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 2,66,50,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 26,65,000.00**
SCHEDULE-A2 PROPERTY : All the piece and parcel of the Schedule House Property bearing No.646, situated at Dattagally, 'I' Block, Ramakrishnanagar, 3rd Main, 3rd Block Chamaraja Mohalla Mysore with under mention linear measurement and boundary, measuring East to West 12 Mtrs. And North to South 18 Mtrs. totally measuring to an extent of 216 Square Mtrs. and bounded on : **East by :** Property bearing No.647, **West by :** Property bearing No.645, **North b y :** Property bearing No.642 and **South by :** Road.
A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs.2,31,66,000.00 B) EMD - Rs.23,16,600.00

For all details contact at Regional Office, MG Road, Bangalore. Contact Numbers - 1) 70107 03787, 2) 79074 16232

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please logon to our website **www.canarabank.com** under "E-Auction" or contact the branch.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 22.02.2026

Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) | **Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.**

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Sri Saravana, S/o. Late T. Thimmaiah, 2) Smt. M. Anusuyamma, W/o. Late T. Thimmaiah	Loan Account No. 47469430001851 47469410001081 Loan Amount: Rs.8,00,000/- Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Northern portion of Site No.76, Khatha No.31, situated at Sonnenahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under the limits of BBMP, Bangalore and **Bounded on: East by:** Site No.111, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Hinduvali Property, **South by:** Remaining Southern Portion of Site No.77. Measuring East to West 30 feet & North to South 20 feet.	Date of NPA: 01-02-2026 Demand Notice Date: 16-02.2026	Rs.12,02,161.22 (Twelve Lakhs Two Thousand One Hundred Sixty-One and Twenty Two Paisa) due as on 11-02-2026 and interest there on
2	1) Mr. Govindaraju G C, 2) Mrs. Sharada	Loan Account No. 32509630000866 Loan Amount: Rs.4,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the immovable residential Property bearing No.158/1/158/2, Sl.No.115, situated at Gonipia Village, Banglore South Taluk, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore District, Presently Comes' under the Limits of K.Gollahalli Village Panchayath and **Bounded by the: East by:** House of Sannamma, **West by:** 10 feet Road, **North by:** House of Anjinappa, **South by:** House of Manjunatha.G.C. Measuring East to West 90 feet and North to South 12 feet.	Date of NPA: 01-02-2026 Demand Notice Date: 13-02-2026	Rs.3,75,003.32 (Rupees Three Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Three and Thirty Two Paisa Only) due as on 11-02-2026
3	1) M/s. Asian Enterprises, Rep. by its Proprietor Mr. Shaik Nasir, 2) Mr. Shaik Nasir, S/o. Mahamad Yousf, Prop. M/s. Asian Enterprises, Also at: M/s. Asian Enterprises, 3) Mrs. Semma Kousar	Loan Account No. 30198642132453 30199410000029 Loan Amount: Rs.25,00,000/- Rs.18,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No.12 situated at Jarakabande Kaval Village, YelahankaHobli, Bangalore North Taluk and allotted with all appurtenances either latent or patent attached to the schedule land and bounded on the Survey No.58/1. **East by:** ShaikJhony Property Site No.11, **West by:** Sharadamma Property, **North by:** Mukthiar Property and 10ft Road, **South by:** Ansar's Property.	Date of NPA: 01-02-2026 Demand Notice Date: 18-02-2026	Rs.21,29,202.31 (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Two and Thirty One Paisa Only) due as on 11-02-2026
4	1) Mr. Raghu S N, S/o. Mr. Nagaraju, 2) Mrs. Rathnamma, W/o. Mr. Nagaraju	Loan Account No. 47049410000810 47040430001002 Loan Amount: Rs.2,50,000/- Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Khaneshmari No.24/24/A, PID No.152900201802220018, measuring East to West 11.8872 meters, and North to South 13.1064 meter, situated at Hegganuru Village, Uyyamballi Grama Panchayath, Kanakapura Block, Ramanagar District and **Bounded on: East by:** Property belongs to Shivamma Wo Devaraju, **West by:** Private Property, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Private Property.	Date of NPA: 02-02-2026 Demand Notice Date: 16-02.2026	Rs.6,36,452.12 (Rupees Six Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Two and Twelve Paisa Only) due as on 11-02-2026 and interest there on
5	1) Mr. Muthurajaya, S/o. Kenchaiah, 2) Mrs. Suguna, W/o. Mr. Muthurajaya, 3) Mr. Kenchaiah, S/o. Obaiah	Loan Account No. 47050430001668 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the property No. 152900204101300214, Khaneshwai No.157/6/1, measuring East to West (5.2+5.8)/2=5.5 meter and North to South (14.2+13.7)12=13.9 meter situated at Arekoppa Village, I Gollahalli Gram Panchayath, Kanakapura Block, Ramanagar District and **Bounded on: East by:** House belongs to Mahadevamma, **West by:** House belongs to Kullayya, **North by:** Road, **South by:** House belongs to Mutta Lakshmamma.	Date of NPA: 01-02-2026 Demand Notice Date: 14-02.2026	Rs.5,16,577.16 (Rupees Five Lakhs Sixteen Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Seven and Sixteen Paisa Only) due as on 11-02-2026 and interest thereon
6	1) Mr. Anjinappa, 2) Mr. Bhagyamma	Loan Account No. 46459630001503 46459410002051 Loan Amount: Rs.4,00,000/- Rs.2,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the property bearing No.18, Sl.No.71, situated at Mothakadahalli Village, Nandagudi Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Presently comes underthelimits of hivanapura Grama Pancahyath and **Bounded by the: East by:** Chowdappa, **West by:** Nagarajappa, **North by:** Road and Munivagalappa, **South by:** Government Property. Measuring 30x40 Feet.	Date of NPA: 01-02-2026 Demand Notice Date: 13-02-2026	Rs.4,94,350.28 (Rupees Four Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Three Hundred Fifty and Twenty Eight Paisa Only) due as on 11-02-2026
7	1) Mr. Puttaswamy, 2) Mr. Venkata Bovi, 3) Mrs. Gowramma	Loan Account No. 47059630001762 Loan Amount: Rs.9,63,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel for the property Khaneshumari No.65/423, East to West Measuring: 25.9079 Meters and North to South: 10.9727 Meters, situated at Bapuji Nagara Village, Honnahalli Dhakre, Kabbalu Gramapanchayath, Sathanuru Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Raja Beedi, **West by:** House belongs to Muniswamaiah, **North by:** Raja Beedi, **South by:** Remaining Own property.	Date of NPA: 01-02-2026 Demand Notice Date: 13-02-2026	Rs.9,58,859.00 (Rupees Nine Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Nine Only) due as on 11-02-2026
8	1) Mrs. Venkatamma, C/o. Erappa, 2) Mr. Erayya	Loan Account No. 45350430000851 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of Property No. 152900204000800541/555/343, measuring East to West 11.43 meters and North to South 11.43 meters, situated at HariharaVillage, Honniganahalli Grama Panchayath, Kanakapura Block, Ramanagar District and **Bounded on: East by:** Government Road, **West by:** Site belongs to Karinanjaiaha, **North by:** Government Road, **South by:** Property belongs to Koramarathotaiaha.	Date of NPA: 01-02-2026 Demand Notice Date: 18-02-2026	Rs.4,13,213.29 (Rupees Four Lakh Thirteen Thousand Two Hundred Thirteen and Twenty Nine Paisa Only) due as on 11-02-2026 and interest thereon
9	1) Mr. Chikkamarigowda T, S/o. Thammaiah, 2) Mrs. Pushpa C	Loan Account No. 47049610000113 47049410000852 47049410000530 47049410000072 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.2,00,000/- Rs.3,00,000/- Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Khaneshumari No.133/37/37A, E-Khatha Property No.152900204201100116 measuring East to West 7.62 Meter and North to South 18.5928 Meter total measuring 141.68 Sq.meter situated at Chikkamudavadi Village, Chikkamudavadi Grama Panchayat, Kasaba Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District. **Bounded on: East by:** Property belongs Raju C, **West by:** Property belongs to Shivalingaiah, **North by:** Property belongs to Channappa, **South by:** Government Road.	Date of NPA: 01-02-2026 Demand Notice Date: 18-02-2026	Rs.11,70,269.60 (Rupees Eleven Lakh Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Nine and Sixty Paisa Only) due as on 11-02-2026 and interest thereon
10	1) Chodalingaiah M, S/o. Mundayya, 2) Mrs. Parvathamma, W/o. Chodalingaiah	Loan Account No. 47059440000021 47059800000040 Loan Amount: Rs.3,80,000/- Rs.1,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel for the Property Khaneshumari No.327/209, measuring East to West 12.8016 meters and North to South 9.144 meters, total 117.06, sq.meters of site and 83.61 sq.metres a building constructed situated at Hukunda Village, Hukunda Grama Panchayath, Kodihalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Rajabeedi, **West by:** KalyanakumariKom. Puttaswamy's House, **North by:** Bhadrakalamma Kom. Doddachoodaiah's House, **South by:** Samudaya Bhavana.	Date of NPA: 03-02-2026 Demand Notice Date: 19.02.2026	Rs.1,72,408.00 (Rupees One Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Four Hundred and Eight Only) due as on 11-02-2026
11	1) Mrs.Kavitha Bai, S/o. Bhima Naik, 2) Mr. Bhima Naik, S/o. Madhu Naik	Loan Account No. 47050440000072 47059410000802 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.2,50,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the property Kaneshumari No.269/70/244, measuring East to West 9.143 meters and North to South 12.191 meters, situated at Kuthagondanahalli Village, Somadyapanahalli Grama Panchayath, Kasaba Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Road, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Site No.7, **South by:** Site No.69.	Date of NPA: 19-02-2026 Demand Notice Date: 01-02-2026	Rs.6,22,502.06 (Rupees Six Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred Two and Six Paisa Only) due as on 11-02-2026
12	1) Mrs. Chandramma S, W/o. Srinivasa R, 2) Mr. Srinivasa R, S/o. Ramappa	Loan Account No. 32509410000971 32509610000057 32509630001027 32509630000511 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.14,00,000/- Rs.9,30,000/- Rs.5,90,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Eastern Portion of Site No.42, Property No.42, Assessment No.14/3, measuring East to West 18 feet North to South 35 feet. Totally measuring 630 Square Feet situated at Goolimangala Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and **Bounded on the: East by:** Water Canal, **West by:** Remaining Portion of Site No.42, **North by:** Property belongs to Narayana Reddy, **South by:** 20 feet Road.	Date of NPA: 01-02-2026 Demand Notice Date: 18-02-2026	Rs.32,25,123.12 (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Twenty Five Thousand One Hundred Twenty Three and Twelve Paisa Only) due as on 11-02-2026

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 23.02.2026, Place: Bangalore & Bangalore Rural — **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

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JDS leader Suresh Gowda was injured after the car in which he was travelling met with an accident in Mandya district on Saturday night. Gowda was returning to Nagamangala taluk after attending a wedding in Mysuru, when the driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle near Banthekoppalu village in Basaralu on the Basaralu–Koppa highway, causing the car to veer off the road and fall into a roadside ditch

Siddu-HDK tussle over social justice escalates

CM says Congress remains committed to inclusive leadership

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Madikeri

THE political exchange between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy escalated on Sunday, with both leaders issuing detailed statements defending their positions on social justice and leadership in state.

Siddaramaiah said that an article he wrote to mark Social Justice Day had sparked "wide-ranging discussion" in the political circles, which he welcomed. Drawing an analogy, he said, "When water stagnates, it turns into slush; when it flows, it becomes clear. Likewise, a social system must remain dynamic rather than rigid to transform in a people-oriented direction."

He stressed that his advocacy of social justice has been consistent throughout his four-decade political career, regardless of whether he was in power. He added that he was ready for a public dialogue on caste and social equity, asserting that he had greater clarity on the issue than his critics.

He accused Kumaraswamy and his father, former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, of

HD Kumaraswamy, Siddaramaiah

practising family-centric politics, alleging that leadership within Janata Dal (Secular) had remained confined to the Gowda family. He claimed several regional leaders had exited the party over time due to lack of opportunities, while asserting that the Indian National Congress had historically identified and nurtured Vokkaliga leaders, enabling figures such as Kengal Hanumanthaiah, Kadidal Manjappa and SM Krishna to become chief ministers.

Siddaramaiah who too was once part of the Janata parivar was expelled by the JDS under Gowda's leadership.

Siddaramaiah further said Congress continues to house several prominent Vokkaliga leaders and remains committed to inclusive leadership across communities. He credited the party leadership, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, for enabling his second term as chief minister despite his backward-class background. He expressed confidence that Congress alone could create conditions for a Dalit leader to become chief minister in the future, calling this a reflection of the party's ideological commitment to social justice.

Countering it, Kumaraswamy argued that Siddaramaiah's rise in politics had been facilitated by Gowda's support and questioned why the chief minister is now criticising that legacy.

He accused Siddaramaiah of selectively invoking past leaders for present political convenience and rejected claims that Congress alone had empowered the Vokkaliga community. "If Congress truly believes in giving leadership to Vokkaligas, then you should step down immediately and demonstrate that commitment," he said.

When water stagnates, it turns into slush; when it flows, it becomes clear. Likewise, a social system must remain dynamic rather than rigid to transform in a people-oriented direction — Siddaramaiah, CM

RURAL INFRA BOOST

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and DCM DK Shivakumar interact with local people at the inauguration of a bridge over Gangavali river, connecting Manjuguni village to Kumta, at Ankola on Sunday. The bridge, a long-time demand by the public, was constructed at a cost of Rs 34.21 crore. On the occasion, the Chief Minister assured the gathering that he would make allocations for a super speciality hospital in the district, and Shivakumar promised free healthcare as the 10th guarantee scheme | EXPRESS

Foundation Day of six states, 2 UTs celebrated at Lok Bhavan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Foundation Day of Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, and the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu was celebrated at Lok Bhavan on Sunday.

Addressing the gathering on the ocassion, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot said the establishment of various states and UTs reflects the strength of India's federal structure and the enduring spirit of democracy. "Each State possesses its own unique language, culture, traditions, and way of life, collectively embodying the vision of 'One India, Great India'," he noted. He called upon citizens to reaffirm their commitment to national unity while respecting regional diversity. He said that through development, good governance, education, skill enhancement, and social harmony, all States and UTs can be taken to greater heights.

The event featured cultural programmes showcasing the rich art, culture, and traditions of the participating States and UTs. R Prabhushankar, Special Secretary to the Governor, delivered the vote of thanks.

RAYANNA STATUE NOT DESECRATED, CONFIRM POLICE

BELAGAVI: The Belagavi city police have clarified that the black stains noticed on the statue of freedom fighter Krantiveer Sangolli Rayanna near Peeranwadi were not the result of vandalism but caused by natural tree resin. Commissioner of Police Bhushan Borse said the department received information on February 19 that an unidentified dark substance was found on the statue, which people suspected as the result of vandalism. Police personnel inspected the spot and registered a case at Belagavi Rural police station. The sleuths examined CCTV footage of the spot recorded from the evening of February 18 until 7am on February 19. They confirmed that no individual was seen approaching the statue or throwing any substance during that period. ENS

Prof's book on politics spurs debate on status of democracy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WHILE many political science classrooms still rely on textbooks written decades ago, and reward rote learning over reflection, the release of Decoding Indian Politics by PS Jayaramu is an example of what happens when an academic brings lived scholarship into public discourse. The book was launched at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan before a gathering of academicians, former civil servants and journalists.

The volume is rooted in decades of teaching and engagement. Having studied at JNU, Prof. Jayaramu carried that culture of debate into his own classrooms over a 45-year teaching career. Colleagues recall how he urged students to question received wisdom and treat politics as a living process rather than a static subject. He said Indian politics resists any single "grand theory" because of its layered realities. He expressed concern over the persistent influence of caste equations, money power and dynastic trends in elections, though he acknowledged that some leaders from political families have established credibility through governance.

The essays explore Parliamentary and Assembly polls, candidate selection based on social arithmetic and winnability, role of campaign finance and increasing reliance on welfare-driven populism in party manifestos.

Political analyst Sandeep Shastri observed that book invites readers to rethink how citizens imagine India -- not merely as a constitutional structure but as an evolving democratic experience shaped by debate.

LIC HFL
LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

BACK OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, LIC JEEVAN MANGAL , HAYES ROAD, RESIDENCY RD, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA 560025

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL), under Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued **Demand Notice** to following Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors calling upon them to repay the outstanding due amount mentioned in the said notices. However, The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors having failed to repay the said due amount, the undersigned has taken **SYMBOLIC POSSESSION** in exercise of powers conferred U/s 13(4) and U/s 14 of the said Act read with the Rule 8.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property have been mortgaged to the LIC HFL, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of LIC HFL will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" & without any recourse basis on Date of Auction, as per the brief particulars given here under.

Name of Borrower/s- M/S SHRI RAM BUIDERS MR NARINDER SINGH AND MRS SIMRANJEET KAUR
Loan A/c No. 411100002356

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY : All the piece and parcel of the Eastern Portion of the property, bearing plot no 6 and 7, Khata no. 4Measuring East to West 60(Sixty) feet and North to South 100 (hundred) feet, totalling to 6000(Six Thousand) square feet in area, situated at Bikasipura Village, Rajarajeshwari CMC, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru and bounded by, on the: - EAST: BDA property, WEST: Remaining portion of Property No. 6 and 7 (Housing DAV School) NORTH: Private Property, SOUTH: Road

Date of Demand Notice	14/11/2025
Amt Demanded	Rs.96422441.45 with further Interest, Cost and Expenses.
Account Details	Beneficiary Name: LIC Housing Finance Ltd Beneficiary Branch Name: HDFC BANK LTD Account Number: LHFLBA411100002356 IFSC Code: HDFC0000009
Date of Possession	Symbolic Possession on 27.01.2026
Reserve Price	Rs.17,00,00,000.00 (Rupees Seventeen Crore Only)
EMD	Rs.1,70,00,000 /- (Rupees One crore seventy lakhs Only)
Total Amount payable as on date	Rs.10,02,78,286.84 (Rupees Ten Crore two lakh seventy-eight thousand two hundred eight-six rupees and eighty-four paisa Only)
Website of E-Auction	https://online.lichousing.com/eauction/ & https://www.auctionbazaar.com/
Date & time of Inspection of Photocopies of property documents	20-03-2026 & 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Address where property documents can be inspected	BACK OFFICE, 1st FLOOR, JEEVAN MANGAL BUILDING, HAYES ROAD, BENGALURU -560025, KARNATAKA
Inspection of the Property Date for inspection and time	23-03-2026 & 10:30AM to 1:00PM
Contact person: Name of Authorised Representative	Mr. A.S.R Phanindra, Associate Chief Manager, Mob No: 8008177199
Contact details of E-Auction from the service provider	Mr. Uthappa K K, Mob No. : 7799510999 email id:- contact@auctionbazaar.com
Last date of submission of Online Tender / Bid	24-03-2026 till 3.00 PM
E Auction Date & Time	25-03-2026 & 11 AM to 3.00 PM

Further to this PUBLIC NOTICE for E-Auction Sale of the above said Assets / properties (in terms and conditions of the SARFAESI, Act 2002 and rules thereunder) LICHFL invites OFFERS through online mode only to purchase the said property as per the following Terms and Conditions as mentioned below:

1. E-Auction Sale is being held on **'As is where is Basis is' and 'As is what is Basis', 'whatever there is Basis' And 'Without Any Recourse Basis',** and will be conducted "Online". The E-Auction will be conducted through LIC HFL approved E-auction service provider – **https://www.auctionbazaar.com/. 2.** To the best of the knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, no other encumbrance exists on the mortgaged property, except as disclosed in the publications. However, the interested Bidders to conduct their own independent due diligence verifications regarding the Location and Identity of the property, Inspection of Public records in the Sub Registrars' Offices/Civil Courts, to find any encumbrances, statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, Income Tax, Excise Duty, Labor Dues, electricity, and maintenance dues, etc., of the Secured Asset. The Successful bidders shall have to bear all outgoing i.e., municipal taxes, maintenance/society charges, electricity charges, water charges, stamp duty, registration charges, (if applicable), if any and all other incidentals charges, cost including all outgoing relating to the respective properties over and above the Reserve Price. LICHFL will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, liabilities, etc., of whatsoever nature pending upon the properties as mentioned above. **3.** The intending bidders should register their names at portal "website of E-auction service provider" as mentioned in the auction sale notice (as published in newspaper advertisement). **4.** The E-auction Sale is subject to the conditions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act/Rules 2002 and the terms and conditions mentioned hereunder/ website also subject to conditions in the offer/bid documents to be submitted by the intending/participating bidders. **5.** Every bidder is required to have his/her own email address in order to participate in the online E-auction. Once Intending Bidder formally registers as a qualified tenderer before Authorized Officer of LICHFL, will have to express his/her interest to participate through the E-auction bidding platform, by submitting documents. It shall be the tenderer's/online bidder's sole responsibility to procure his/her login ID and password from the E-auction service provider. **6.** The aforesaid properties shall not be sold below the Reserve Price mentioned above. **7.** If the successful bidder defaults in effecting payments or fails to adhere to the terms and condition of E-Auction in any manner the amount already deposited will be forfeited and he/she shall not have any claim as such for forfeited amount. **8.** The offer/s along with the aforesaid Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) can be submitted "online" through the portal eg., **"www.auctionbazaar.com"** along with the EMD and scanned copy of KYC documents including PAN Card & (Aadhar Card) address proof, to the service provider, mentioned above on or before the Bid Submission due date & time as per other details of Auction above. Authorised Officer is not bound to accept highest offer made by the bidder if not acceptable to the secured creditor. **9.** Every Bidder shall deposit EMD before participating in E-Auction. The said Deposit/s shall be adjusted in the case of successful bidder/s, otherwise refunded. The said earnest money deposit/s will not carry any interest. **10.** Initial Bidding increment is **Rs 100000/-.** However, Authorised Officer will state bidding increment amount percentage for each property if, decided otherwise. **11.** The successful bidder/s shall deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, adjusting the EMD paid already, within 24 hours of bid acceptance by the Authorized officer/next working day before close of cash hours, in respect of the sale, failing which the earnest money deposited shall be forfeited. The balance 75% of the sale price is payable within 15 days from the date of confirmation of the sale unless decided otherwise by Authorised Officer in writing, the maximum period allowed is 90 days, beyond which time-period cannot be extended. In case of failure to deposit the balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited. The Authorized Officer shall not be required to give any further notice of forfeiture to the successful bidder. **12.** The successful bidder should bear the charges/fees payable on sale certificate, such as registration fees, stamp duty, taxes, or any other duties payable for getting the secured asset transferred in his/her name. **13.** The Sale Certificate will be issued only in the name of the successful bidder and only after receipt of the entire sale price. **14.**The notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, Mortgagor/s and Guarantor/s that they can bring the intending buyer/purchaser for purchasing the properties mentioned above, as per the terms and Conditions of the E-Auction Sale. **15.** Inspection of the photocopies of documents and Property Inspection of the above said properties can be done on the dates stated in the advertisement. Interested bidders shall contact the designated official as per the other details of E-Auction mentioned above. All conveyance and other expenses related to Inspection of the property/document copies shall be borne by the interested bidders. **16.** The LIC Housing Finance Limited reserves the right to CANCEL / ACCEPT / REJECT / ALTER / MODIFY / POSTPONE the AUCTION without giving any reason whatsoever or prior Notice. **17.** The sale is subject to confirmation by the Secured Creditor, viz., LIC Housing Finance Ltd.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 23.02.2026

Sd/- Authorized Officer
L.I.C Housing Finance Ltd.

QuoteExpress

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE STARS, AND YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

#49, "Parisara Bhavan", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru-560001, Karnataka,
Phone: 25581383, 25589112, 25586520, Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in, Website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

NO.PCB/327/SEO/MINES/EPH/2025-26/5045 DATE:21.02.2026

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

Sri. Revanth M Patil, has proposed to under take Building Stone Quarry project with production capacity of 62,000 TPA on a total land Area of 2.00 Acres (0.8094 Ha), which is a Government land atSy.No.1/C of Ucchangidurga Village, Harapanahalli Taluk & Vijayanagara District. This project proposal covered under cluster location as per Office Memorandum issued by the MoEF&CC, GoI vide No. F. No.L-11011/p175/2018-IA-II(M) dated:12.12.2018.

As per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated:14.09.2006 and Amendment dated:01.12.2009, the project proponent has to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority and is required to go through the process of Environmental Public Hearing. As per the Terms of Reference (ToR) letter No.SEIAA 224 MIN 2025 dated: 05.11.2025 issued by the SEIAA, Karnataka and request letter of the project proponent dated:18.11.2025 and the Environmental Officer, Regional Office, Vijayanagara letter dated: 10.02.2026 intimating the date, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the KSPCB.

The details of the project are as follows:

1. Name & Address of the Project Proponent : Sri Revanth M. Patil S/o mahabaleshwara Gowda #670/2, 8th Main, P.J. Extension, Davanagere-577 002.

2. Location of the proposed Quarry Project : Sy. No.1/C, Ucchangidurga Village, Harapanahalli Taluk &Vijayanagara District.

3. Details of proposed Quarry Project : Proposed to undertake Building Stone Quarry of production capacity 62,000TPA in a total land Area of 2.00 Acres (0.8094 Hectares).

4. Date, time and venue of Environmental Public Hearing: Date : 24.03.2026 (Tuesday) Time: 11:00AM Place: Project site, Sy. No. 1/C, Ucchangidurga Village, Harapanahalli Taluk & Vijayanagara District

5. Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are: (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Vijayanagara District, Vijayanagara **(b)** Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Vijayanagara District, Vijayanagara **(c)** District Industries Centre, Vijayanagara District, Vijayanagara **(d)** Thasildar Office, Harapanahalli Taluk, Vijayanagara District. **(e)** Office of the Deputy Director, Dept. of Mines & Geology, Vijayanagara District. **(f)** Gram Panchayat Office, Ucchangidurga Gram Panchayat, Harapanahalli Taluk. **(g)** Office of the Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Vijayanagara. **(h)** SEIAA Karnataka (Ecology and Environment), Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka, Room No. 709, 7th Floor, 4th Gate, MS Building, Bengaluru – 560 001 **(I)** HELP DESK, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No. 49, ParisaraBhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification to make oral/ written/ E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Vijayanagara District, Vijayanagara). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details please visit our Website: **https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in/.**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

Our motto is to minimize waste generation through judicious use of natural resources

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client, **Mr. SHREEHARI KUTSA,** is in the process of negotiating and purchasing certain immovable agricultural lands more fully mentioned and described in the Schedule hereunder (the **"Schedule Property")** from its owners / vendors namely **Smt. Savithramma,** W/o Late C. Jayakumar; **Smt. Rajalakshmi,** D/o Late C. Jayakumar (W/o Ramesh B); **Sri. P. J. Chandrashekar,** S/o Late C. Jayakumar; **Sri. P. J. Sathish,** S/o Late C. Jayakumar; **Smt. Sathya Kumari A. S.,** W/o P. J. Sathish; **Sri. Mahesh S,** S/o P. J. Sathish; **Kum. Rohini S,** D/o P. J. Sathish; **Smt. Bhavya,** W/o P. J. Chandrashekar; **Sri. P. C. Darshan,** S/o P. J. Chandrashekar; and **Sri. P. C. Madhuchandan,** S/o P. J. Chandrashekar; (collectively referred to as the **"Vendors"),** all being members of the family of Late Sri. C. Jayakumar and residents of Puttegowdanadoddi Village, Maralavadi Hobli, Harohalli Taluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka and **Sri. Jagadeesh R,** S/o Late Ramachandra K, and **Sri. Madegowda,** S/o Late Chikkellayya, who are parties to a prior Agreement of Sale executed on 14/08/2024 are being made as confirming partis to the Absolute Sale Deed to be executed.

The said purchase is proposed to be completed for a sale consideration to be mutually agreed between my client and the Vendors, pursuant to an **Absolute Sale Deed** proposed to be executed and registered by the Vendors and confirmed by the Confirming Parties in favour of my client, Mr. Shreehari Kutsa, in respect of the Schedule Property.

Any person(s) having any objections, claims, right, title, interest, lien, charge, mortgage, lease, licence, easement, tenancy, agreement of sale, court attachment, lis pendens, acquisition proceedings, or any other encumbrance of whatsoever nature in respect of the Schedule Property is/are hereby called upon to lodge such objections or claims, along with true copies of documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned in writing within **7 (Seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that there are no objections or claims to the proposed transaction, and my client will proceed to complete the purchase of the Schedule Property and the execution and registration of the Sale Deed. Any claim(s) made or arising thereafter shall not be entertained and shall be at the sole risk, costs and consequences of such person(s).

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural land bearing Survey No. **113/1,** measuring **0 Acres 06 Guntas,** Survey No. **113/2,** measuring **3 Acres 00 Guntas,** Survey No. **114/2,** measuring **2 Acres 21 Guntas,** Survey No. **114/3,** measuring **1 Acre 20 Guntas,** Survey No. **115/1 (presently Sy. No.115),** measuring **2 Acres 26 Guntas,** Survey No. **118/1,** measuring **1 Acre 35 Guntas,** Survey No. **118/2,** measuring **1 Acre 10 Guntas,** situated at **Bachahalli Village, Maralavadi Hobli, Harohalli Taluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka,** together with the land along with all things attached to the earth or permanently fastened thereto and all things situated above and below the said land, including all trees, plantations, improvements (if any), wells/ borewells, pump sets, water lines, drains, fences/compound (if any), and all sub-soil and underground rights and installations (if any), and together with all rights, easements and appurtenances whatsoever appertaining thereto and enjoyed therewith.".

Naveen Kumar.M. Advocate
Pragati Law Chambers
5A, Bharath Apartments
No.44/1, Fair Field Layout,
Race Course Road, Bengaluru 560001
Place: Kanakapura Date:22/02/2026

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No entry for Muthalik, Kerehalli in Bagalkot

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bagalkot

TO prevent the situation from spiralling out of control and to maintain communal harmony, the Bagalkot administration and police have banned the entry of controversial Hindu activists **Pramod Muthalik** and Puneet Kerehalli into the district between February 21 and March 21.

The order was issued as a precautionary measure following tension in the city after a stone-throwing incident on Thursday night during a Shivaji Jayanti procession. The police have arrested eight persons in connection with the incident. District officials said several cases registered at the Bagalkot City police station have created tension, with activists from different communities planning protests and closely monitoring developments. Intelligence inputs indicated that the presence of the two activists could further aggravate the situation and disturb public peace.

The order, issued by the deputy commissioner and district magistrate under Section 163 of the Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) restrains Muthalik and Kerehalli from entering Bagalkot district, citing concerns that provocative speeches could inflame communal tension. The police have been directed to enforce the order immediately.

In the meantime, the police intensified action against those involved in the violence. The case, Crime No. 16/2026, registered at the Bagalkot City police station, details that the accused attempted to incite a riot near the Mutton Market area on February 20 around 12.30 pm, obstructed police personnel on duty, threw stones at private properties and fled the scene.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has announced that the state is preparing to become a national test bed for telecom and emerging technologies, while ensuring high-speed internet connectivity to every household within 18 months

SABARI GOLD THEFT

Stung SIT to appeal tantri's bail in Kerala HC

Head priest alleges he was targeted for opposing women's entry into Sabarimala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@T'Puram

STUNG by the Kollam vigilance court's remarks that the investigators failed to produce an "iota of evidence" against Sabarimala tantri Kandararu Rajeevaru in the gold theft case, the SIT is considering moving the Kerala High Court against the bail order. The team has sought legal opinion and a final decision is likely within two days, sources said.

As per the HC-appointed SIT's assessment the Kollam court's remarks in the bail order could adversely affect the ongoing probe, sources said. Though the court was dealing with a bail plea, it went into the merit of the case, the sources said, adding that since the SIT was responding to the bail plea, it did not submit all the evidence against the accused. As per the sources, the court went into several matters that were to be judged during trial.

Rajeevaru received bail in both cases – related to theft of gold from the doorframes and dwarapalaka idols – on Wednesday (February 18), the 41st day of his incarceration, after the court found the SIT could not establish "any prima facie materials to link the petitioner in the alleged conspiracy".

The court's remarks put the state government on the back foot as Opposition parties demanded clarity on the grounds of arresting the tantri. In his bail plea, the tantri alleged he was being targeted for opposing the entry of women into the hill shrine. His submission prompted rivals to launch a fresh offensive against the CPM-led state government.

> The nature of the order was like a Supreme Court verdict. There is an abnormality in the vigilance court order
>
> P Rajeev, Kerala Law Minister

Meanwhile, speaking to reporters on Sunday, senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala said the tantri's arrest ought to be seen as a political conspiracy and alleged it was done to stop the probe from reaching former Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran and incumbent V N Vasavan. However, Law Minister P Rajeev said there were some unusual aspects in the vigilance court's order. "The nature of the order was like a Supreme Court verdict. There is an abnormality in the vigilance court order," he said.

DEVOTIONAL SPIRIT

A devotee lights a lamp at Attukal Bhagavathy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram on the eve of the annual Pongala festival | BP DEEPU

RS polls: Cong surprised as KCR plans to field candidate

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY
@Hyderabad

THE ruling Congress, which has till now believed that it would easily bag the two Rajya Sabha seats from Telangana in the impending elections, was jolted out of its complacence on Sunday when reports emerged that BRS supremo and former chief minister **K Chandrasekhar Rao** has decided to field at least one candidate.

The reports naturally unsettled the Congress leadership which had assumed that it would be a straightforward race for two seats falling vacant at the end of April. With the election schedule now out, and an inkling of KCR's plans emerging, the Congress now knows that the election will be a contest of arithmetic, alliances and nerve.

Sources in the BRS said KCR is considering fielding a familiar face. On paper, the BRS has the support of 37 MLAs, according to Assembly records. This includes 10 MLAs who allegedly crossed over to the ruling Congress and whose disqualification cases are still under scrutiny. The Speaker has already rejected petitions against eight of these 10 MLAs, while two cases remain pending before the Tribunal.

The arithmetic points to the fact that the BRS needs the backing of four more MLAs to cross the threshold required to secure a Rajya Sabha seat from the state. Discussions are said to be underway with other parties to bridge this gap.

The Congress, which heads the government in the state, has 66 MLAs and the support of one CPI legislator. Until recently, the party believed that the BRS would stay out of the race or fail to attract external support.

MLA, 2 PAs grilled for 11 hrs, sent to judicial custody

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @Gadag

LOKAYUKTA officials questioned BJP MLA Chandru Lamani, representing Shirahatti in Gadag district, and his two personal assistants, Manjunath Valmiki and Guru Lamani, for 11 hours, from 2 pm on Saturday till 1 am on Sunday, after they were arrested while accepting a bribe of Rs 5 lakh from a contractor.

Around 2 am, they took the trio to the Gadag Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) for medical examination. After completion of all the procedures, the accused were taken to Bengaluru, sources said.

Meanwhile, the MLA's supporters gathered in front of the hospital and engaged in a verbal spat with the police and Lokayukta officials.

In Bengaluru, the accused were produced before the special court trying cases against elected representatives on Sunday which handed them over to judicial custody till March 2.

The Lokayukta police arrested Lamani and his PAs at Lakshmeshwar's Balaji hospital, owned by the MLA, on Saturday. A few days ago, contractor Vijay Pujar of Chinchali village met the MLA seeking a project to construct a retaining wall at Devihal village in Shirahatti taluk for Rs 1 crore. The MLA allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 11 lakh. Then, the contractor approached the Lokayukta police who laid a trap and arrested the trio. The Lokayukta police also raided the MLA's residence, office and Balaji hospital.The operation was led by Lokayukta SP Siddalingappa.

MLA Dr Chandru Lamani being taken to GIMS for a medical check-up

This is the second case that Lamani has been embroiled in. During the elections, then Gadag Deputy Commissioner Vaishali ML had written to the health and family welfare department in April 2023, informing that Lamani was a government doctor and so was ineligible to enter the poll fray. A case was registered by the Lokayukta police, but Lamani proved that he had resigned as a health officer and and was not arrested.

EXPRESS READ

Two Naxals killed in Odisha encounter

BHUBANESWAR : In yet another success, Odisha police on Sunday neutralised two Naxals including a woman cadre during an exchange of fire within Karada forests of Kandhamal district. One AK-47 and a self-loading rifle have been recovered. The Special Operation Group launched the operation at 11 am. On noticing the security personnel, the Naxals opened fire. "The forces retaliated and the exchange of fire lasted for two hours. It appears there were at least seven Naxals and two of them were neutralised during the encounter. The combing operation is still continuing," said ADG Anti-Naxal Operation Sanjeeb Panda.

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, MESCOM Bhavana, Bejai, Mangaluru-575 004
Phone: 0824-2885762 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425
No. MESCOM-GMAHOPER/19/2021-GM ADM HR - I/2611/2026 Date: 21.02.2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)
Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited invites bids vide Enquiry No. **MESCOM/2025-26/SE0172 Date: 21.02.2026** for implementation of Group Personal Insurance to all its Employees /Officers for the FY-2026-27.
The Bids will be received through e-procurement portal only. The detailed tender notification can be obtained by logging on to **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 23.02.2026** Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/-
General Manager (A&HRD)
DIPR/DK/MPL/1654/25-26
For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, the Undersigned advocate on behalf of my client **Nagesh.G S/o Late Govindappa** has filed petition for death certificate of his grandfather **Marappa s/o of Late Pillappa Marappa was died on 18/10/1960,** at Dharmapura village Vijayapura Hobli Devanahalli Tauk, Bangalore Rural District, If any parties who have objections with regard to issue of death certificate can appear before the Hon'ble 2nd additional Civil Judge and JMFC at Devanahalli **on 10/4/2026 at 11.00 A.M. in C.MisNo.37/2026**
By Order of the Court, Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer
Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli
T.K. Savithramma, Advocate

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JACK LONDON

Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB)
Plot No. R-7, Market Yard, Gultekadi, Pune - 411037
Phone: 020-24528100 / 24528200
Website: www.msamb.com, Email: export@msamb.com
Request for Proposal (RFP)
MSAMB with support from MAGNET Project has developed Fruit and Vegetable Handling Facility, at Baramati, Dist: Pune.Requesting for Proposal from competent agencies for the Selection of Agency to Operate, Maintain & Manage the said facility.The RFP document with detailed guidelines is available on the website http://mahatenders.gov.in. The last date for submission of the RFP is 10/03/2026. Amendments / modification / date extension to the RFP document will be uploaded on http://mahatenders.gov.in only.
Managing Director

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC –SHAR
SRIHARIKOTA-524124
Brief E-TENDER NOTICE
No: SHAR:CMG CIVIL:MAINT: E-Public Tender -17/25-26 Dt: 19.02.2026
On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for following works;

Name of Work	Tender No	Estimate Cost
External Painting of Quarters at PHC-I & II, SDSC SHAR	T/C-25-061	₹ 67.53 Lakhs
External Painting of Quarters at SMN Housing Colony, Sullurpeta.	T/C-25-062	₹ 56.96 Lakhs
Rerouting of drain from Temple junction to Railway station Goods shed at Sullurpeta.	T/C-25-063	₹ 23.75 Lakhs
Providing safety Grill for corridor and class room of Space Central School, PCN colony, Sullurpeta.	T/C-25-064	₹ 16.74 Lakhs

Tender documents can be downloaded up to **10.03.2026**, **14:30** hrs. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro**
Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521
No: 903/SEE/Tr.(Pro)/EE(O)/AEE-2/25-26/4173-84 Date: 21-02-2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)
KPTCL invites tender against Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/SEE/ Tr(Projects)/ EE(O)/AEE-2/25-26/KUMATA** for **"conducting Preliminary & Detail survey of Proposed 220kV and 110kV line using modern survey techniques in the Tr. (Projects) Circle, KPTCL, Hubballi."**
The bids will be received through "KPP portal" mode only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-Tendering process can be obtained by logging on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 23-02-2026.** Other details can be had from the office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele)
Transmission (Projects) Circle, KPTCL
Karwar Road, Vidyuthnagar, Hubballi – 24

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer
Varahi Project Division
Siddapura, Udupi District– 576229
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ವಾರಾಹಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಸಿದ್ಧಾಪುರ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ– 576229
ಕಛೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಇಂ/ಕನೀನಿನಿ/ವಾಯೋವಿ/ಟಿಬಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/12&13/2025–26/1603&1604
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20/02/2026
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆ) (Two Tender Document System)
ವಾರಾಹಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಡಿ ಬರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ವಿವರಗಳು ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ
1. ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 145.17 & 50.85 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು
2. ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23/02/2026.
3. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ/ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27/02/2026
4. ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04/03/2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
5. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05/03/2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.15 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
6. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ, ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡು ಅಥವಾ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಚಹುರಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ಕನೀನಿ, ವರಾಹಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಸಿದ್ಧಾಪುರ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through KPP portal)
BWSSB invites Itemwar TENDERS from registered agencies for the following works.
Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri-O&M), 8th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number		Amount put to tender EMD (in Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	Kaveri (O & M)-1	BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-1/AE/2025/3369/2025-26, Dt: 10.02.2026	1	Rs. 32,21,232.09 / Rs. 64,500/-	02.03.2026 upto 4:00 pm	03.03.2026 after 4:01 pm
2		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-1/AE/2025/3367/2025-26, Dt: 10.02.2026	2	Rs. 39,86,400/- / Rs. 80,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Kaveri - O&M-1)
Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09.

3	South-1	BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/4205/2025-26, Dt: 20.02.2026	3	Rs. 78,20,138/- / Rs. 1,56,500/-	04.03.2026 upto 4:00 pm	06.03.2026 after 4:00 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-1)
The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/YC/5806/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.SEE/Tr(Projects)/MYS/EE(E)(O)/AEE-1/25-26/6376
Date: 19.02.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP portal only)
KPTCL invites bids for the following work:
1) Bid Enquiry No: SEE/T(Proj)Circle/Mys/EE(O)/AEE-1/2025-26/220kV Pandavapura Dtd: 19.02.2026 **for Conducting detailed survey for proposed 220kV Double LILO line using MC towers from proposed 400kV R/s Hampapura-220kV R/s Tubinkere line to proposed 220kV R/s Pandavapura, 66kV line emanating from proposed 220kV Pandavapura R/s to 66/11kV Pandavapura, Chinakurali, Bookanakere, Babybetta, Sunkathonnur, Jakanahalli & Guddenahalli S/s in Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya District using Modern survey Techniques.**
The bids will be received through electronic mode only. The details notification regarding above said enquiry can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper link **"E Procurement KPTCL"** OR **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **26.02.2026 @ 17:00 Hrs**". Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours. All corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the bids.
Sd/-, Superintending Engineer (Elecl.),
Transmission (Projects) Circle, KPTCL, prasarana bhavana,
1st Floor, FTS Circle, N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru-570 007

Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd (FORMERLY KNOWN AS EQUITAS FINANCE LTD)
Registered Office : No.769, Spencer Plaza, 4th Floor, Phase-II, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600002.
POSSESSION NOTICE (U/s. Rule 8 (1) - for immovable property)
Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest [Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)] and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with [Rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the below mentioned Borrowers to repay the total outstanding amount mentioned in the notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. Since the below mentioned Borrowers having failed to repay the below stated amount within the stipulated time, notice is hereby given to the below mentioned borrowers and the public in general that, the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the schedule mentioned properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited and further interest and other charges thereon." The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub –section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets."

SR NO	Name of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Possession taken date
1	BRANCH - B.G.Road Loan No. - SEBGROD0292231 BORROWER - Mr/Mrs Girijamma Mv Co-Borrower - Mr/Mrs Srinivas N	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Immovable Property Bearing Property No.63A, Presently Bbmp Katha No.01/63A, Sy.No.1, Situated At Pillaganahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, Presently Comes Within The Limits Of Bbmp, North by : Private Property, South by : Road, East by : Private Property, West by : Private Property.	30.10.2025 & 625807	18.02.2026
2	BRANCH - Chandapura Loan No. - SECNDPR0362186 BORROWER - Mr/Mrs Murali T Co-Borrower - Mr/Mrs Ramakka, Mr/Mrs Thimmarayappa	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Immovable Property Survey No.73,House Assessment No.74, Measuring: East To West 30 Ft. North To South 40 Ft. Totally 1200 Sq.Ft. And There On Contracted Measuring 24*10 Ft. Sheet House. Situated At Mutthagatti Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District.,North by : Road,South by : Vacant Site Belongs To Thimmarayappa, East by : Vacant Site Belongs To Venkataramanappa, West by : Vacant Site Belongs To Krishnappa.	30.10.2025 & 732332	18.02.2026
3	BRANCH - Yelahanka Loan No. - SEYLHNK0449831 BORROWER - Mr/Mrs Nagaveni Co-Borrower - Mr/Mrs Ananda R	All That Piece And Parcel Of Immovable Property Assessment No. 19/3 And Site No. 117 , Measuring East , West And North 33.6 Feet , East West And South 24 Feet , North , South And East 30 Feet , North South And East 31 Feet In Total Measuring 874.4 Sq. Feet. Gangondanahalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Banagalore North Taluk, Bangalore, North by : Site No. 116, South by : Site No. 118, East by : Site No. 88, West by : Road.	30.10.2025 & 849545	18.02.2026
4	BRANCH - Yelahanka Loan No. - SEYLHNK0449820 BORROWER - Mr/Mrs Nagaveni Co-Borrower - Mr/Mrs Ananda R	All That Piece And Parcel Of Immovable Property Assessment No. 19/3 And Site No. 87 , Measuring East To West 40 Feet And North To South 30 Feet , In Total Measuring 1200 Sq. Feet . Situated At Gangondanahalli Village,Dasanapura Hobli, Banagalore North Taluk, Bangalore.,North by : Site No. 88, South by : Site No. 86,East by : Road,West by : Site No. 118.	30.10.2025 & 591508	18.02.2026

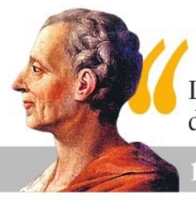
Date - 23.02.2026,
Place - Bangalore
Authorized officer ,
Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Canara Bank,
ARM Branch I
2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.G. Road,
Bangalore-560001.
SALE NOTICE
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM Branch-1 (Earlier Agricultural finance Branch), Bengaluru of the Canara Bank,** will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **13.03.2026 (11.00 AM TO 11.30 AM),** for recovery of **Rs. 73,81,45,984.53,** as on 18.02.2026 with further interest and cost thereon due to the ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from **1. Savithri Jewellers Pvt. Ltd.,** No.165, Maauli Mantralaya, Lakshmi Temple Road, Hindwadi, Belgaum, Karnataka-590011. **2. Mrs. Deepa Vernekar** W/o. Mr. Prashant Wandkar, Director, Savithri Jewellers Pvt. Ltd, At No.165, Maauli Mantralaya, Lakshmi Temple Road, Hindwadi, Belgaum, Karnataka-590011. **3. Ms. Shilpa Vernaker** D/o Mr. Suresh Vernekar, Director, Savithri Jewellers Pvt. Ltd, At No. 165, Maauli Mantralaya, Lakshmi Temple Road, Hindwadi, Belgaum, Karnataka-590011. **4. Mr. Kishore Vernekar** S/o. Mr. Suresh Vernekar, R/At No.165, Maauli Mantralaya, Lakshmi Temple Road, Hindwadi, Belgaum, Karnataka-590011. **5. Sri Suresh Vernekar** S/o. Mr. Dattatray Vernekar, R/At No. 165, Maauli Mantralaya, Lakshmi Temple Road, Hindiwadi, Belgaum, Karnataka-590011.
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s. PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **12.03.2026, 5.00 pm.** (Rs. in lacs)

Lot	Description of the immovable/ movable assets	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental value
1	Property bearing R S No. 59/1 measuring 1 acres situated at Madhavapura, Belguam and **bounded on the : East by :** R S No. 58, West by : R S No.76, North by : R S No. 57 and South by : R S No. 77. **Coordinates of the property : Latitude- 15.8355970 Longitude- 74.5308150**	Rs. 180.00	Rs. 18.00	Rs. 1.00

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website **(www.canarabank.com)** or **E-Wallet of M/s. PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal and may contact **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No. 080-25310066, 6381952519 and 9483544116 during office hours on any working day.**
Date: 19.02.2026
Place: Bangalore
Sd/- Authorised Offier
Canara Bank

EDITORIAL



"Liberty is the right to do what the law permits" — Baron de Montesquieu

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

INDIA MUST BRACE FOR TRUMP'S PERMANENT TRADE DOCTRINE

THIS was never the end of Donald Trump's tariff wars, only an intermission. When the US Supreme Court struck down his global tariffs, imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, many assumed executive trade brinkmanship had hit a wall. The court ruled 6-3 that the president had overreached. Hours later, Trump proved them wrong. He shifted to Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, announcing a 15 percent blanket tariff on imports—the provision's maximum. The mechanism may be narrower and temporary, lasting 150 days without congressional approval. But the intent is clear. Tariffs are not policy footnotes in Trump's playbook; they are leverage and spectacle, central to his strongman persona and grievance-driven domestic politics.

American GDP growth has slowed to 1.4 percent and the trade deficit has widened to roughly $1.2 trillion. Despite this, Trump has doubled down on the claim that tariffs will force manufacturing home and rebalance trade. More than $130 billion has already been collected under now-restricted emergency powers. The Supreme Court may have trimmed the legal pathway, but it has not altered the political instinct. This should be a wake-up call for India. New Delhi had agreed to tariffs of 18 percent on most goods under a bilateral understanding. A 10 percent US levy was manageable. A 15 percent blanket tariff erodes that relief and tightens margins across pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, textiles and auto components. More importantly, it reinforces a hard truth. Trade understandings with Washington can be abruptly repriced.

Under Trump, trade talks will remain prone to rude shocks. Countries that are convinced they have preferential access are learning that nothing is immune to sudden recalibration. Unpredictability is itself the leverage. India cannot negotiate in awe of the US market. Nor can it afford reflexive outrage or knee-jerk retaliation each time tariffs are weaponised. The response must be robust and strategic. Diversify export markets aggressively, deepen trade pacts, sharpen domestic competitiveness and build safeguards into any American deal against abrupt escalation. While there is no real substitute for the US market and Trump is a political reality, the next shock is not a possibility but a probability. In short, tariff shock is the new normal. India must prepare for a permanent Trump trade doctrine.

HIGH HOPES OF RALLY AMID IRAN WAR FEAR

IF it's not one thing, it's another for the Indian stock markets. Thursday's bloodbath saw the benchmark indices, Sensex and Nifty, fall 1.48 and 1.41 percent, respectively, ending a three-day winning streak. If fears of rising geopolitical tensions between the US and Iran sparked a widespread selloff, Thursday's market crash was also partly due to profit-booking, given that domestic markets had traded close to record highs in recent sessions. In contrast, US and European stocks saw minimal declines despite rising geopolitical risk from Iran. Gold prices remained unusually calm around $5,000. The S&P500 fell 0.2 percent, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average and Nasdaq Composite posted marginal declines. Anticipation is high that Indian markets will rally on Monday, thanks to the US Supreme Court's decision to strike down President Donald Trump's tariffs as illegal. The announcement saw a brief market rally in the US, though rising US-Iran war tensions weighed on sentiment.

Crude prices continued their upward march. West Texas Intermediate futures shot past $66.35 per barrel and Brent touched $71.48. Markets reacted to the potential impact on oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz. Higher energy prices lead to higher inflation and prevent further rate cuts. Trump warned Tehran of traumatic consequences if a deal is not reached within a month. The recent military buildup in the region only underscores the likelihood of escalation. Analysts believe Trump's strategy is to choke off oil supplies to China. This could escalate into a broader regional war or even a world war if Russia, China and North Korea join forces. Such a move would challenge Washington's attempts at global hegemony. A likely US-Iran war will have significant ramifications. China sources about 19 percent of its oil from Iran. Cutting off this supply will annoy Beijing which already saw snapped supplies from Venezuela after the US capture of Nicolás Maduro.

Essentially, it seems that Washington's clash with Iran is as much an attack on Beijing. Such geopolitical tensions amid firmer crude prices spell trouble for oil-importing countries like India. These factors not only spike inflation but also upset our fiscal math. Notwithstanding India's strong fundamentals, foreign portfolio investors have continued to offload. They have sold an estimated ₹20,000 crore since the beginning of 2026. Going forward, market volatility will likely persist. This could prompt even sharper capital outflows than in 2025.

QUICK TAKE

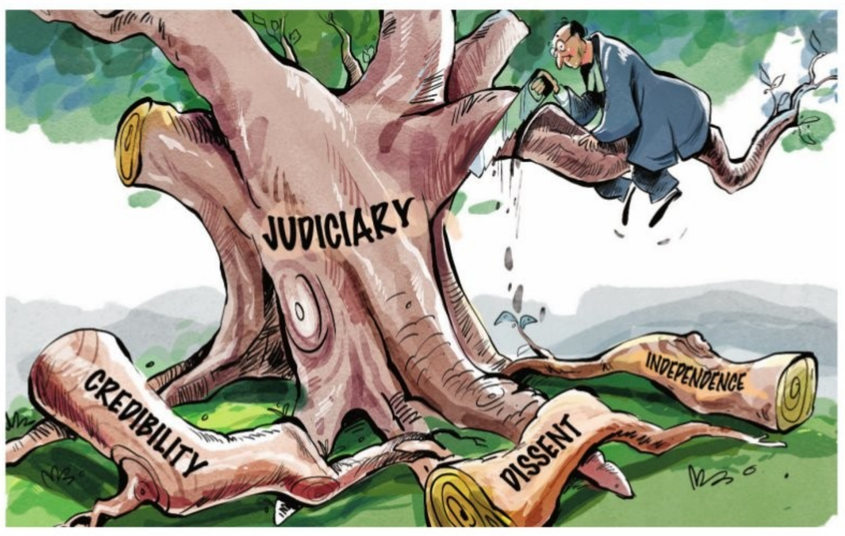
JURY ON JURY

IN the United Kingdom, a vigorous debate is on over plans to curb jury trials, a tradition that dates back nearly 1,000 years. The Labour government says courts are in crisis, with cases pushed to 2029 and beyond. It wants judge-only trials for less serious crimes to cut delays and ease a backlog of under a lakh cases. Supporters call this practical and overdue. Critics warn it weakens a basic right: to be judged by one's peers. Looking at India, where juries don't exist and still pending cases run into millions, offers little comfort. India's problem is manpower shortage; Britain's is funding and capacity. The jury is truly out on the mode of trial.

Dissent remains the judiciary's bulwark, exposing through past and recent judge-transfer cases, alleged executive influence, opaque selections and abrupt reversals that threaten institutional integrity

DISSENT AS AN IMPERATIVE FOR JUDICIAL DEMOCRACY

KALEESWARAM RAJ
Lawyer, Supreme Court of India



SOURAV ROY

RECENTLY, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan of the Supreme Court, by necessary implication, criticised the Collegium headed by the then Chief Justice B R Gavai, for its resolution of October 14, 2025. The resolution recommended the transfer of Justice Atul Sreedharan from the Madhya Pradesh High Court to the Allahabad High Court, rather than to the Chhattisgarh High Court as proposed earlier. It was stated that the change of decision was due to the request from the Union government. Justice Bhuyan rightly lamented that when the Collegium noted in the minutes that the transfer is made at the behest of the Centre, it reflects the Centre's clear intrusion into the internal affairs of the judiciary. The judge also spoke extensively about the judiciary's credibility crisis.

The Indian Constitution is not a perfect document that meets every crisis the nation or her institutions may face from time to time. Regulating transfers of HC judges is a grey area. Article 222 of the Constitution only says that the President may, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, transfer a judge from one HC to another. During the National Emergency (1975-1977), the country witnessed the non-consensual transfer of 16 HC judges who refused to please the regime. The Constitution does not indicate the parameters for transferring or not transferring HC judges. As held in *Chand Himatlal Sheth* (1977), Article 222 does not mandate that the transfer be consensual. This deficit was sought to be remedied by precedents popularly known as the *Judges* cases: The *First Judges Case* (1981), *Second Judges Case* (1993), *Third Judges Case* (1998) and the *Fourth Judges Case* (2015). The 1981 decision that upheld the executive's power in the realm of judicial appointments is no longer the law, with the invention and evolution of the Collegium, as seen in subsequent cases. Like judicial appointments, in principle, the transfer of judges is now within the Collegium's domain. Yet, judicial transfers were often criticised for being vitiated by executive influence.

The executive's role in judicial transfers across high courts is not erased in India, despite the verdicts to the contrary in the *Second*, *Third* and *Fourth Judges cases*. By designing the new memorandum of procedure device, which the Constitution did not envisage, the Supreme Court's judgements created more problems than they resolved. In the matter of appointment, including that to the Supreme Court, the Centre does have a *de facto* role. In transferring high court judges, often leading to a change in the composition of Collegium in the respective HCs, similar executive dominance prevails. A senior judge who is part of the Collegium might lose her status as a member once she is sent to another HC with more senior judges. This would impact her participatory role in administrative decisions. The Centre plays a pivotal role in such transfers, sometimes with a dubious agenda. This exposes the rhetoric about judicial independence in India.

In 2017, when Justice Jayant Patel, then the second senior-most judge of the Karnataka High Court, was transferred to the Allahabad High Court, he resigned. Last year, the transfer of Justice Nisha Banu from the Madras High Court to the Kerala High Court also ignited controversies. Several judicial transfers drew criticism of the Collegium as well as the Centre.

Transfer of judges without obtaining consent and without any criteria is bound to meet such a fate. B R Ambedkar visualised HC judges as forming "a single cadre". Though admirable in principle, this has never been the Indian case. These judges (except the Chief Justices) are almost always chosen from the respective states. Therefore, as H M Seervai noted in his classic treatise on Constitutional Law, for a proper invocation of Article 222 of the Constitution, prior consent of judges should be obtained. The 80th Law Commission report also suggested the same idea, "to prevent abuse of power".

Justice Bhuyan's speech was also on the credibility of the judiciary. When Justice Bhuyan, along with Justice Abhay S Oka, ruled in favour of prior mandatory environmental clearance for certain mega projects, the three-judge Bench headed by the then Chief Justice Gavai overruled the judgement in the guise of a review. As part of that Bench, Justice Bhuyan had to reiterate his earlier view, which remains as a minority view that lacks enforceability. His dissenting judgement in *Vanashakti* (2025) was "an appeal to the brooding spirit of law, to the intelligence of a future day", as Charles Evan Hughes famously said about judicial dissent. Justice B V Nagarathna publicly criticised the Supreme Court's practice of frequently overturning its earlier judgements, leading to inconsistency and uncertainty. The two-judge Bench consisting of Justices Dipankar Datta and A G Masih also expressed the same concern in *Sk Md Anisur Rahman* (2025).

Institutional dissent is a significant means of maintaining judicial integrity. In India, majoritarian regimes have, right from the 1950s, begun to meddle with the structural and functional autonomy of the judiciary. In 1951, attempts were made to supersede the senior-most judge, Justice M Patanjali Sastri, in the appointment of a new Chief Justice following the demise of the country's first Chief Justice, Harilal J Kania. This was opposed by all the judges of the Supreme Court with a threat of *en masse* resignation. Then the government had no other way but to step back. It was a collective dissent against the executive. Justice Nagarathna's dissent when the Collegium chose to elevate Justice Vipul Manubhai Pancholi to the Supreme Court, overlooking the seniority of many others, has been an insider's assertion. A total lack of criteria for elevation to the Supreme Court can create immense hurdles to maintaining the system's credibility. Often, the decision to pick and choose junior hands impacts the morale of senior judges in the HCs, including chief justices, which in turn affects the quality of their service.

Franz Kafka, in his popular work *The Trial*, lamented that lawyers do not dare to complain about the systemic deficits nor do they want to improve the system, while people at large do want the judiciary to reform. The credibility crisis highlighted by Justice Bhuyan requires lawyers and judges to speak out publicly, as dissent alone can bolster judicial democracy.

(Views are personal)
(kaleeswaramraj@gmail.com)

THE CHINDIAN TALE

RENUKA NARAYANAN
FAITHLINE

CHINESE New Year was last week on February 17, the dawning of the Year of the Fire Horse. Back after 60 years, it's described as 'a symbol of forward movement, independence and endurance'. We Indians love all happy festivals, besides desi ones, so, in honour of the Chinese-origin people in India, here's wishing everyone Happy Chinese New Year.

The Chinese community in India, found mostly in Kolkata and Mumbai, is a small and shrinking minority with around 3,000-4,000 in Kolkata and 400 families in Mumbai. Kolkata has the most visible community, with historic Chinatowns in Tangra and Tiretta Bazaar. Mumbai's community is smaller in areas like Mazgaon.

The first Chinese settler, Yang Tai Chow, also known as Tong Achew, arrived in 1778 from Guangdong, establishing a sugar mill near Kolkata with Warren Hastings's permission. The population surged in the early 20th century, as many fled conflict in China. But sadly, the 1962 war with China led to the internment of thousands in Deoli, Rajasthan causing mass migration to Canada, Australia and Hong Kong.

The community is tight-knit, with many having married locals and being fluent in Indian *bhashas*. They maintain cultural traditions, such as celebrating the Chinese New Year at their temples, including the temple in Mumbai dedicated to Kwan Kung, a popular Chinese folk deity. The grave of Tong Achew is in Achipur by the Hooghly in the 24 Parganas. Achipur is named after him. His grave is visited by many Chinese during their New Year.

After establishing tea gardens in Assam, the British authorities encouraged the migration of Chinese labourers and artisans from Kolkata in 1838, who overcame the language barrier and started intermingling. Many Chinese married local women and established a new community in Assam. They worked hard and soon began to prosper. Several 'China patti,' or small Chinatowns, sprang up in different parts of Assam. The China patti of Makum in Tinsukia district was the biggest and is still known for its unique Sino-Indian community.

Across India, the Chinese grew famous as excellent dentists, hairdressers, shoemakers and restaurateurs. We talk so much about the Portuguese contribution of new vegetables from South America to India like potatoes, tomatoes and green chillies. The culinary contributions of Muslim cultures are well-known and we are completely used to the British influence on our eating habits be it tea, sliced bread, salted butter, sandwiches, cakes or bakes, and trends that took off widely after liberalisation like Italian pizza and pasta, or American inventions like burgers and hot dogs. But it's the Chinese in India who created an entire Sino-Indian cuisine that many call 'Chindian' and Delhi-NCR calls 'Chinjabi'.

X.COM

The Chinese community is tightly knitted into Indian society with the only, yet historic Chinatowns in Kolkata and Mumbai. Savoury blends of culinary innovations and expert leather craftsmanship have had an immense impact on an-ever relevant cultural culmination

Nelson Wang is inarguably the most famous pioneer of Chindian cuisine, and as anyone who's visited China knows, it's in a savoury league of its own, and quite different from actual Chinese food. Wang was born in Kolkata in 1950, the son of a Chinese immigrant. But his father passed away when he was very young and he was sent to an uncle in Mumbai, where he made his way up the restaurant ladder, finally opening his own.

He is credited with inventing Chindian favourites like Chicken Manchurian, Cauliflower Manchurian and Veg Manchurian, none of which has anything to do with faraway Manchuria but a lot to do with pakoras dunked in gravy, with Chinese flavouring instead of Indian masalas. He is also held to have introduced Chindian staples like chicken corn soup, hot and sour soup, chicken lollipops and date pancakes with ice cream, besides spring rolls, noodles and fried rice. I'm not sure if he invented the notorious Paneer Manchurian, which sounds more Chinjabi than Chindian. If so, it's further proof that Sino-Indian has become its own genre, with even 'Idli Manchurian' at Udupi restaurants.

The Chinese, being expert tanners, also make the most beautiful shoes and handbags in the land, from the softest leather. Their creations are stitched with fine craftsmanship. In my teens, I could never find comfortable shoes for my long, narrow feet among the two-and-a-half brands available then. I wept that I had inherited my father's feet, not my mother's, and was teased in the swimming pool, "Here's the mermaid, see her flippers?" which did not exactly encourage self-confidence.

When riding lessons began, obviously riding boots were required, for I couldn't show up in unsafe sandals or slippers. That's when life changed forever. Riding boots had to be made to order, as they were not available otherwise. Armed with my father's permission and promise to pay, I marched into the shoe shop of K K Lee in Delhi's Khan Market. When he made me try on my new boots, I almost started weeping again. For the first time in my life, my poor feet were comfortable, for he understood the human foot. Years later, the old bond revived with his son Richard. I was new to credit cards, and unaccountably lost mine. I ran into the Lees' shop in panic and told Richard, who knew what to do, and fixed matters.

I was used to seeing images of Kuan Yin in Chinese shops. She is the East Asian Bodhisattva of mercy and kindness, derived from Avalokitesvara. Her name means 'One who hears the world's cries', and rescues those in fear or despair. Decades later, the memory of the kind-hearted Lees was a reason for my frequent visits to Kuan Yin's serene temple in Bangkok's Chinatown, for she was no stranger to me. May the Year of the Horse prove lucky for our fellow Indians of Chinese descent and for us all.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Deal standstill

Ref: *Tariffs are dead* (Feb 22). The SCOTUS ruling is a major setback for Don. It should give him a long rope and make space to continue making mistakes. India should now play their hand very carefully and wait to assess net gains before committing to a deal.
Philip Alexander, Bengaluru

Smart financing

Ref: *The buy now, pain later model* (Feb 22). The issue under discussion is extremely relevant for the day. Spam calls have become an everyday exercise. This is an unhealthy trend of debt-trapping families which could have been done without. The prospective financier knows how to secure their finance.
P Mangalachandran, Kannur

Visionary teacher

Ref: *André Béteille: A grammarian of culture* (Feb 21). André's immeasurable contribution elaborately demonstrated during his stint as professor of Anthropology in Delhi University. His perception, vision and holistic commitment had fetched him a befitting position. He firmly upheld an emphasis on dignity, individuality and integrity.
Ramalingeswara Rao, email

Don's downfall

Ref: *Trump jacks up global tariff* (Feb 22). The idiom, 'cut off your nose to spite your face' is apt for Don. He has many options of committing *harakiri* in the coming days—unilateral war on Iran, blaming Putin and Zelenskyy for their war and blasting SC judges on tariffs. Now is the time for Don to secure another Nobel prize for tariffomics.
Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati

Corruption rot

Ref: *K'taka BJP MLA caught accepting bribe* (Feb 22). If highly intellectual professionals can easily turn corrupt, what about history-sheeting politicians? This one case is just the tip of the iceberg. Onus is on the party leadership to follow strict protocol against any member involved in unethical activities.
Jayaprakash Reddy, Nalgonda

AI's appetite

Ref: *New Delhi declaration* (Feb 22).
A farmer in Vidarbha squints under a flickering bulb, his irrigation pump dry, while server halls a thousand kilometres away gulp the power of a small village. India is making bold promises at global AI summits, yet an uncomfortable question persists: Can a country where millions still struggle with reliable electricity and clean water sustain the insatiable appetite of AI?
Sagar Gambhir, Pune

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Mahua Moitra @MahuaMoitra
Only Bengal has been illegally & brazenly targeted by @ECISVEEP on orders from their sanghi masters. Violating the RP Act & even the SC's orders.

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
The BJP's conspiracy is to somehow split people's votes and prove that they are not citizens, and seize their land, fields, houses—everything.

Amit Malviya @amitmalviya
West Bengal stands alone as the state where the Supreme Court had to intervene, replace EROs with judicial officers, and ensure that democracy is protected

Israeli missile production part of PM's visit agenda

Sky Sting's 250-km beyond visual range to fill gaps in IAF capability

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

INDIA is likely to advance discussions on procuring the Israeli-origin "Sky Sting" long-range beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM) during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel on Wednesday, it is learnt.

Pitched with an engagement range of around 250 km, the missile is being projected as a solution to bridge a gap in the IAF's long-range air combat capability, even as the indigenous Astra Mk2, with over 200 km range, is being developed.

The Sky Sting, unveiled around three years ago, is under development and is understood to have reached a degree of technological maturity, though it has not yet been inducted into operational service.

"Israel has been pitching the missile for some time and it is now being considered for integration on the Tejas Mk1A, with the initial tranche equipped with the Israeli ELM-2052 AESA radar," a source said. At an estimated 180-200 kg, the missile is within the weight bracket suitable for light fighters like Tejas Mk1A.

Furthermore, delays in HAL's delivery of the fighter are learnt to be partly linked to challenges in integrating the radar with the homegrown Astra BVRAAM. "With 180 Tejas Mk1A aircraft on order, the platform could also be configured to carry the missile. If things move forward, it is also likely to be integrated on the Su-30MKI", the sources added.

The IAF is learnt to be considering an initial tranche of around 200 missiles to equip its fighter fleet. The proposal is expected to move towards joint development in later stages, along with localised production in partnership with Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, sources said. If taken forward, the system would undergo trials and integration validation before eventual induction.

Such an approach would align with India's broader push to balance immediate operational requirements with domestic manufacturing through technology partnerships, similar to the co-production of HAMMER precision-guided munitions by Safran and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)

India already operates a range of Rafael-origin systems, including the I-Derby ER and Python-5 air-to-air missiles, the SPYDER air defence system and precision strike weapons like SPICE and Rampage. It is also a key partner in the development of the Barak-8 air defence system.

From buyer-seller equation to co-production

The talks follow a recent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) inked between the Indian and Israeli defence ministries ahead of PM Modi's visit. The agreement aims to move beyond buyer-seller arrangements towards co-development and co-production of next-generation systems.

ED to make foreign funds, meddling for anti-national action priority probe area

SUMIT KUMAR SINGH @ New Delhi

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) said on Sunday that foreign interference and illicit funding for anti-national activities is the most priority investigation area, directing its teams across the country to scrutinise suspicious cross-border financial flows that may be used for "unlawful narrative building and destabilising activities."

The directive came at the agency's 34th quarterly conference of zonal officers (QCZO), held from February 19 to 21 in Guwahati. The conference, chaired by the ED Director Rahul Navin and attended by senior officers, covered a range of operational and strategic priorities ahead of the financial year close.

However, the explicit flagging of foreign-funded anti-national activities as a focus area stands out as one of the most significant directives. An ED statement said the agency directed officers to examine suspicious cross-border financial flows for such activities and "wherever legally sustainable, register cases to address such threats within the statutory framework." As the financial year is to close, the target of filing 500 prosecution complaints before March 31 was discussed. "All field formations were urged to make concerted efforts to achieve the same, while also preparing for an enhanced target in the next financial year," the agency said. Navin made clear that the push to increase prosecution complaints reflects the agency's broader objective of "proactively concluding long-pending investigations and systematically reducing the lifecycle of new investigations to a reasonable timeframe of one to two years, except in exceptionally complex cases."

The conference also identified other priority areas like tracking of foreign assets.

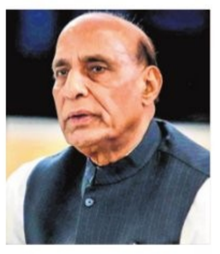
"All zonal heads were directed to intensify efforts in tracing and securing proceeds of crime parked abroad, particularly in jurisdictions such as Dubai and Singapore," the statement said. Officers were also directed to examine manipulation of trade invoices and undervaluation of imports.

INSIDER TRACK

Buzz over Cong names for RS race

With under a month to polls for 37 Rajya Sabha seats, the Congress is abuzz over nominees. The party is poised to bag five seats — two from Telangana, and one each from Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. Leadership is expected to balance social and regional representation before sealing names. In Himachal, former Union minister Anand Sharma, seen as close to Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu, is in the mix. Ex-Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel figures in speculation. Telangana may see B Sudershan Reddy or Abhishek Manu Singhvi. Also circulating: B K Hariprasad, Supriya Shrinate, Pawan Khera and Kanhaiya Kumar, who is considered close to Rahul Gandhi. Final calls soon.

BJP's Bengal 'parivartan' push



On March 2, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will launch the BJP's 'Parivartan Yatra' from Howrah, kicking off Mission Bengal 2026. The campaign targets the TMC government, accusing it of disorder and law and order collapse, while promising a return to administrative glory. Top guns—Amit Shah, JP Nadda, Dharmendra Pradhan and Nitin Nabin—will lead outreach, especially to women and youth. Nine yatras, symbolically tied to Shakti, plus 65 major and nearly 300 smaller rallies are planned statewide. All roads end in Kolkata late March, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi expected at the finale rally.

Cockpit counsel: Kharola is back

Air India has brought back a steady hand. Tata Sons has appointed former civil aviation secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola as senior adviser. A 1985-batch IAS officer from Karnataka, he earlier served as Chairman and Managing Director when the airline was government-owned. His return comes at a sensitive time. Since privatisation in 2022, Air India has navigated turbulence, including a tragic crash and stiff regulatory penalties. The airline's revival plan now gets seasoned oversight. Kharola's deep familiarity with the ministry and operations positions him as a crucial bridge with the regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. The message from Tata Sons: steady the controls, rebuild trust, and climb again with confidence.

Digital roll call for AI summit

In a rare show of bureaucratic discipline, ministers and officers from joint secretaries and above were ordered to attend the AI Summit — no exceptions, no urgent files, no last-minute reviews. The directive came straight from the Prime Minister's Office, making it clear: attendance was compulsory. The signal was unmistakable. If Artificial Intelligence is the future, the present must report on time. Corridor whispers say even die-hard hard-copy loyalists are now experimenting with chatbots and algorithms. The message from the top: governance must keep pace with code.

Protest strips, pressure slips

The BJP went on the offensive after volunteers of the Indian Youth Congress staged a shirtless protest at the AI Impact Summit. Publicly, it slammed the Congress. Privately, some leaders admitted the surprise demonstration proved a blessing. The uproar, which reportedly caught security off guard, shifted headlines away from the Galgotias University "Robodog" controversy. "Once again, Congress became Sankat Mochan for us," a leader quipped, suggesting the protest diverted attention at a critical moment. What began as an embarrassment for the ruling party morphed into breathing space. In politics, sometimes opponents hand you the cushion just when you need it most.

Ticket tangles for Cong in Kerala

As Congress prepares to release its first list of candidates for the Kerala Assembly polls, all is not quite well with the screening panel led by Madhusudan Mistry, with members Abhishek Dutt, Neeraj Dangi and Sayeed Naseer Hussain. Hussain, sources say, has largely stayed away from meetings. Some say it's a potential conflict of interest given his organisational role, while others insist the Rajya Sabha MP prefers to keep a distance from the high-stakes contest. After the Bihar panel came under scrutiny for candidate selection and alleged irregularities, caution prevails. Viewing Kerala as a do-or-die battle after a decade out of power, Congress relies heavily on survey inputs overseen by strategist Sunil Kanugolu, privileging winnability over lobbying, despite some MPs expressing interest.

Govt should have waited for US top court order on Trump tariff, says Cong

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

CONGRESS on Sunday questioned the timing of the India-US trade agreement, suggesting that the government may have hurried to finalise the deal even though a ruling by the US Supreme Court on tariffs imposed during former US President Donald Trump's tenure is still pending.

Taking to X, party general secretary Jairam Ramesh cited the publicly available calendar of the US Supreme Court, noting that February 20 had long been scheduled as a non-argument day—a day typically reserved for issuing judgments.

"This is the calendar of the US Supreme Court—decided and released months in advance. It clearly marks out February 20 as a non-argument day—that is, a day when arguments will not be heard and a judgment could be released. The court had already heard arguments relating to tariffs on November 5, 2025, and it was well known that the justices were not expected to be favourably inclined to President Trump's tariffs," he wrote.

Ramesh further questioned why India did not wait until February 20 to sign the trade deal and asked what the urgency was in finalising it on February 2.

Earlier, Ramesh told media that the agreement would lead to immediate liberalisation of imports. Voicing similar concerns, Congress MP Manish Tewari questioned reports that the US could levy a 10–15% tariff on Indian exports even as India has slashed duties to zero on nearly 70 items.

Legal teams formed to reclaim original RTI Act

The Congress announced new initiatives on Sunday, including setting up rapid legal response teams at state and district levels and raising its voice to reclaim the original RTI Act. Announcing four such programmes, Congress treasurer Ajay Maken and senior spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said that young minds, through such initiatives, would help provide legal aid at the grassroots level whenever required.

Modi offers digital hygiene advice against cyber frauds

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

ADDRESSING his monthly radio broadcast 'Mann Ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged people to remain vigilant against online financial fraud and digital arrest. He also highlighted strides made by India in the field of artificial intelligence, saying the AI Impact Summit marks a turning point in shaping how the world will harness the power of AI in the years ahead.

Modi said that many people are being targeted through digital arrest and financial fraud, and quite often, senior citizens have been swindled of their lifelong earnings. To protect themselves, the PM urged everyone to remain vigilant and advised that KYC (Know Your Customer) or re-KYC procedures should only be carried out through bank branches, official apps, or authorised platforms.

"Do not share OTP, Aadhaar number, or bank account information with anyone. And most importantly, keep changing your password from time to time. Just as food and clothing change with each season, make it a rule to change your password every few days," he said.

Modi said that often, people come across news of fraud involving businessmen. "Someone calls up and says, 'I am a high-ranking officer. You need to share some details with me'. Innocent individuals might fall prey to such tactics, making it crucial for everyone to stay alert," he said.

The PM noted that when individuals receive messages from banks requesting KYC updates, they may wonder why it is necessary since they've already completed the process. "I urge you not to fret; this is just for the safety of your money. We all know that nowadays from pension, subsidy, insurance, UPI, everything is linked to the bank account," he explained.

Highlighting India's advances in AI, Modi said world leaders were impressed by how the country is using AI to preserve its ancient texts, knowledge and manuscripts, adapting them for today's generation. "India's achievements in AI have sparked considerable international interest in learning about the nation's ancient wisdom through technological means," he said.

Modi also noted that numerous players of Indian origin are bringing pride to the countries they represent and this is clearly visible in the T20 World Cup.

'Rajaji Utsav' to be held at Rashtrapati Bhavan

The PM said that from February 23, 'Rajaji Utsav' will be celebrated at Rashtrapati Bhavan. "On this occasion, a statue of C. Rajagopalachari ji will be unveiled in the Central Courtyard of Rashtrapati Bhavan replacing a statue of British architect Edwin Lutyen. Rajaji was the first Indian Governor General of Independent India," Modi said.

NMC admits stipend inequality exists for interns

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

AFTER five years, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has finally agreed that there is no stipend parity for undergraduate medical interns, whether they are studying in government or private medical colleges.

This follows the Union Health Ministry directions, not once but twice last year.

Finally, responding to the ministry, the NMC on February 18 said, "Any amendment to the CRMI Regulations, 2021, if required, would need consideration in accordance with the statutory process and after due consultation with all concerned authorities." While the government medical colleges pay interns between ₹20,000 and ₹30,000, private colleges either pay half of that or none at all.

Data from NMC in 2025 showed that 60 of 555 medical colleges were not paying stipends, and many were paying nominal stipends of less than ₹5,000 per month.

Speaking with this paper, RTI activist Dr KV Babu said when the draft CRMI regulations were put in the public domain in 2021, he had informed the UGMEB that "this is very vague and gives ample opportunity for the private medical college management to deny stipends to MBBS interns."

The Compulsory Rotating Medical Internship Regulations, 2021, or CRMI Regulations 2021, stated that "all interns shall be paid a stipend as fixed by the appropriate authority applicable to the institution/university or state."

While the CRMI regulations left the decision of the stipend on the authorities of the institution, in contrast, the PGMER-2023 clearly stated that "all the candidates pursuing compulsory rotating internships at the institution from which the MBBS course was completed shall be paid a stipend on par with that of the State Govt. Medical Institution, Central Government Medical Institution in the State, and Union Territory where the institution is located."

As per the CRMI Regulation 2021, it is stated that the existing regulation already provides for the payment of a stipend to interns

Ram Pratap, Director, Undergraduate Medical Education Board

Responding to the Under Secretary, Medical Education Policy Section (MEP), on the request to withdraw the CRMI Regulation 2021 and Gazette it again after incorporating the comment, the Director of the Undergraduate Medical Education Board (UGMEB), Ram Pratap, said, "Hence, as per the CRMI Regulation 2021, it is stated that the existing regulation already provides for the payment of a stipend to interns."

As soon as the NMC announced the regulation in 2021, Dr Babu had raised the issue and shared his comments for incorporation.

But when the NMC failed to amend the provision, he wrote to the Health Ministry on June 4, 2022, requesting them to withdraw the notification.

On November 6, Dr Babu again wrote to the health ministry after the SC slammed the NMC for non-payment of stipends to interns.

The ministry responded immediately and issued the direction to the NMC. The NMC finally responded to the ministry on February 18.

No more priority censor certificate for extra fee, govt likely to cancel scheme

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE government has proposed to withdraw its "priority scheme" for film certification introduced under the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024. If the proposal is approved, provision of jumping the queue for expediting the certification process by paying fee. According to the officials, the move aims to create a level playing field to ensure fair access to all filmmakers.

Before taking a final decision to scrap the scheme, the ministry of information and broadcasting (MI&B) is seeking feedback from stakeholders. Last date for sending comments is March 17. As per a notice issued by the ministry, besides discontinuation of the provision allowing for priority screening upon payment of three times the examination fee, the other proposed amendment is for removal of the provision allowing the Regional Officer to alter the order of examination based on priority applications.

Justifying the amendments, the ministry in the notice, said that while the priority scheme was introduced with the objective of facilitating certification for urgent cases but became a routine, which dilutes its intended purpose.

The ministry further said that the arrangement was introduced with the unintended effect of undermining the principle of fairness and orderly processing inherent to a statutory certification regime.

However, the growing reliance on priority processing risks creating a two-tier certification system, where applicants with greater financial capacity are able to secure faster clearances at the cost of others.

"The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting proposes to amend the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024 to discontinue the existing Priority Scheme for film certification. This proposal aims to restore equity and orderly processing within the film certification framework, ensuring fair access for small and independent filmmakers ... .The immediate discontinuation of the Priority Scheme is considered a more effective interim measure," read the note of the ministry.

Quicker examination by paying three times the fee

The scheme was introduced in 2024, allowing applicants to expedite the examination process by paying three times the standard fee. Under this, it is ensured that the film examination is scheduled within five days, subject to slot availability.

ON THE BOIL

A Trinamool Congress legislator on Sunday alleged that miscreants had hurled crude bombs and fired at his vehicle in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, police said.

1 YOUTH KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT IN RAJASTHAN'S ALWAR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	33	20	Mumbai	30	23
Bhopal	30	17	Panaji	31	23
Jaipur	27	16	Patna	29	16
Amritsar	27	13	Lucknow	28	14
Chennai	29	23	Port Blair	28	26
Kolkata	32	21	Imphal	25	11
Srinagar	12	01	Chandigarh	26	13

Calcutta HC forms judge-DM panels in each district for SIR verification

3-member committees to include SPs; judicial officers' decisions on objections to be final

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

THE Calcutta High Court on Sunday formed a three-member committee comprising District Judge, District Magistrate (DM) and Superintendent of Police (SP) in every district to monitor verifications of documents related to the SIR of electoral rolls in the state.

Chief Justice Sujoy Pal of the HC held a meeting with West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Manoj Agarwal and State Chief Secretary (CS) Nandini Chakraborty and decided to form the committee in every district across the state.

A list of around 250 judicial officers posted as district and session judges, chief judges, and additional district and session judges, among others, in the state has been sent to the state government. The committee headed by them will start the scrutiny of SIR documents from Monday. The HC registrar has also issued a notification in connection with the matter, it's learned.

Following Friday's Supreme Court directives, the HC Chief Justice on Saturday held a high-level meeting with the CS, director general of police (DGP), CEO Manoj Agarwal, representatives of the Election Commission of India (ECI), and advocate general and discussed how to complete the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls in the state by February 28, the deadline set by the SC for publication of final voters' lists. The HC cancelled the leaves of all the judicial officers till March 9 to solve the issues related to the 'logical discrepancies' before the decisive post-SIR rolls in the state are released.

Judges who are on leave have also been asked to join work, according to a notification issued by the Registrar (Judicial Service), HC. No judicial officers can take time off barring medical emergency, according to the sources. They have also been asked not to leave stations till March 9.

These past and present district judges and additional district judges will perform the role of Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) in examining the claims and objections related to the SIR. Their decision will be final and deemed to be orders "passed by this court," a three-judge bench of the Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi, and Justice Vipul M. Pancholi said.

The bench passed the "extraordinary order" in the current "extraordinary circumstances" by using its plenary and "extraordinary" powers under Article 142. It allowed the poll panel to publish the electoral rolls on February 28, as scheduled, and follow it up with a supplementary list of the names added to it after scrutiny. The SC warned that the director-general of police (DGP) "will face serious consequence(s)" if there are any further law-and-order problems during the SIR.

STRICT MOVE

1. The focus is on addressing 'logical discrepancies'
2. Judges who are on leave have also been asked to join work
3. No judicial officers can take time off barring medical emergency
4. They can't leave the station till March 9

EC convenes round table with state poll panels

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

WITH focus on strengthening coordination and fostering synergy between the Election Commission and state poll panels in conducting elections and preparing electoral rolls, the national poll body is convening a national round table conference in New Delhi on Tuesday.

This high-level conference is being organised after a gap of 27 years, with the last such meeting held in 1999. The conference will be chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and attended by Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

"Election commissioners from all states & UTs will take part in the deliberations along with their technical and legal teams. Chief electoral officers representing all 36 states and UTs are will also be in attendance," an ECI official said.

The official added that the deliberations are expected to provide a platform for constructive exchange of ideas and to reinforce cooperative federalism in electoral management.

Assam's former Congress chief joins BJP, says more leaders will switch soon

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

DAYS after quitting the Congress, the party's former Assam chief, Bhupen Kumar Borah, joined the ruling BJP on Sunday. The BJP organised a programme at its state headquarters, Vajpayee Bhawan, in Guwahati to welcome the two-time former MLA to its fold. BJP state president Dilip Saikia was among those who were present. Talking to media, Borah said that more Congress leaders would join the BJP in the coming days.

"The Congress has 700 ticket aspirants, and 100 of them will get the chance to contest the Assembly elections. I won't say the remaining 600 others will come to the BJP, but the self-respecting Assamese of Rajiv Bhawan (state Congress headquarters) will come to Vajpayee Bhawan," Borah said. He claimed that their condition in the Congress was that of Mahabharata's Karna before he died.

"I have moved away from Duryodhana, but the Karnas are still there. They will get to know who will be on which side in the battle of Mahabharata. I want to tell the Karnas of Rajiv Bhawan that the result of this battle has already been decided," he further stated, referring to Assam polls expected in April.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said Borah had a major contribution in the Congress, which he served for nearly 33 years. "He will begin a new life from today. I congratulate him," Sarma said. Borah is likely to contest the polls from one of the constituencies in the Lakhimpur district that he hails from. The BJP has already announced that it will offer a "safe seat" to him. He had resigned from the Congress last Monday over differences with the state leadership.

The party's central leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, had persuaded him to reconsider withdrawing his resignation but he remained unmoved. The next day, the CM visited Borah's Guwahati residence and later announced that the former Congress leader would join them on February 22.

Borah earlier also served as a spokesperson for Assam Congress and a secretary of All India Congress Committee.

SRINAGAR DIARY

FAYAZ WANI
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Tourist spots in J&K set to reopen by May

CM Omar Abdullah has announced that all tourist destinations in J&K that were shut after the Pahalgam terror attack would be reopened by May. In April 2025, terrorists attacked Baisaran meadows in Pahalgam, killing 25 tourists and a local ponywala. After the attack, tourist footfall in Kashmir dropped from 34.98 lakh in 2024 to just 11.16 lakh in 2025, while in Jammu it declined from 2.01 crores in 2024 to 1.62 lakhs. Omar said the government was in talks with the Centre on the issue. After the attack, 70 tourist spots in J&K were shut. Recently, L-G Manoj Sinha ordered the reopening of 14 closed tourist spots—11 in Kashmir and 3 in Jammu.

Omar rebukes party MLA Veeri in Assembly

CM Omar Abdullah rebuked his party MLA Dr Basheer Ahmed Veeri in the Assembly over complaints of increased electricity bills in his constituency. Veeri, who defeated PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's daughter Iltija Mufti from the Bijbehara constituency, informed the Assembly that he had spent months reviewing power bills in his constituency and found discrepancies. He claimed consumers were receiving inflated bills and alleged lack of accountability among the PDD officials. Omar, who also holds charge of the Power, denied any hike in power tariff in J&K since December 2023. "We have to listen to the public," he said.

Khelo India in Gulmarg kicks off today

The second leg of the Khelo India Winter Games will begin in the world-famous ski resort of Gulmarg on Monday. About 800 athletes would participate in the event from February 23-26. The first leg of the Khelo India Winter Games for ice events was held in Ladakh's Leh from January 20 to 26. Gulmarg would host snow sports competitions in four disciplines—ski mountaineering, alpine skiing, Nordic skiing and snowboarding. Top skiers will participate in the Khelo India Winter Games in Gulmarg. Since the inauguration edition in January 2020, the Khelo India Winter Games has become a regular feature on the ski slopes of Gulmarg.

DRUG RACKET

Army man and dismissed cop among six held

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

PUNJAB Police has busted a Pakistan-backed drug cartel with the arrest of six people, including an army personnel and a cop, and recovered 4.8 kg heroin. DGP Gaurav Yadav said the accused were in direct contact with Pakistan-based smugglers, who used drones to push heroin consignments into the Indian territory.

"Faridkot Police, after a two-month-long jail-based interception, busts a well-organised heroin trafficking network, apprehends six accused, including one Army personnel and one dismissed police personnel, and recovers 4.8 kilograms of heroin, one weapon, and a Thar and an XUV," the DGP said, adding that an FIR has been registered and further investigation is underway to establish forward and backward linkages.

Those arrested have been identified as Jarnail Singh alias Goldy, a Ludhiana resident currently serving in the Army, Amardeep Singh alias Boxer, a Punjab Armed Police cadre employee who was dismissed in 2021, Dimple Rani of Ferozepur, and Ramandeep Kaur, Sarabjit Singh and Amritpal Singh, all from Moga.

2 Punjab cops found dead near border checkpoint, Pak outfit claims 'credit'

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

TWO Punjab Police cops who were on duty at a checkpoint near the Indo-Pakistan international border were found shot dead under "mysterious circumstances" on Sunday.

Sources said that Assistant Sub Inspector ASI Gurnam Singh and home guard jawan Ashok Kumar were on duty in Adian village under the Dorangala police station limits in Gurdaspur district when they were shot dead by unknown assailants late at night. The bodies were discovered inside an outpost. It remains unclear whether they shot each other or if a third person was involved.

After locals discovered the bodies of the deceased in the morning at the checkpoint, they were promptly shifted to the Gurdaspur Civil Hospital for a postmortem examination.

Deputy Inspector General (Border) Sandeep Goel told this newspaper, "We are investigating it from all angles. Forensics experts have examined the spot.'' Gurdaspur Senior Superintendent of Police Aditya said, "It was in the morning that we were informed that two of our personnel had sustained gunshot injuries. The police have cordoned off the crime scene, with both technical and forensic teams present there," he added.

'No presence in Punjab'

A senior police official speaking on the condition of anonymity dismissed the claim, noting that the outfit has no presence in Punjab or anywhere else in the country. He added that it too early to say anything and the claim made by the outfit could be an attempt to mislead the probe

Meanwhile, a little-known Pakistan-based terror outfit, Tehreek-e-Taliban Hindustan (TTH), has reportedly claimed responsibility for the slaying.

However, a senior police official speaking on the condition of anonymity dismissed the claim, noting that the outfit has no presence in Punjab or anywhere else in the country. "It is too early to say anything," he said, adding that the claim made by the outfit could be an attempt to mislead the investigators.

Govt razes Naxal memorials to stop regrowth of ideology

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

CRPF personnel stand atop the debris after demolishing a memorial built by Naxals for CC member Ramanna at Gogunda in Chhattisgarh's Sukma | FILE PHOTO

INDIA'S intensified campaign against Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) has entered a decisive new phase, with security forces expanding their footprints beyond armed cadres by dismantling symbols associated with Naxal ideology.

The latest initiative, dubbed "Operation Demolishment," targets memorials and monuments allegedly erected by Naxal operatives and cadres to commemorate their leaders and propagate their ideology in their bid to entice people to join their ranks. Officials in the security agencies said that a total of 203 such memorials and monuments have been demolished so far in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, two states that have been long witnessing and suffering the most due to Naxal activities. The forces have reported that the drive gathered unprecedented momentum in 2026, as the bulk of the demolitions took place in that year.

In Chhattisgarh, no such structures were removed in 2023. The number, however, rose modestly to eight in 2024 and 11 in 2025. But, in 2026 alone, 130 monuments were demolished, bringing the total in the state to 149 over the four-year period, the officials said.

A similar trend has been recorded in Maharashtra, though on a smaller scale. One memorial was demolished in 2023, followed by two in 2024 and seven in 2025. In 2026, authorities removed 45 such structures, taking the total number in the state to 55, they said.

The security forces maintain that these monuments served as tools for ideological outreach. Naxal outfits used the sites to glorify slain cadres, hold commemorative events, and influence local youth in remote and forested regions. By removing these structures, authorities believe they are weakening the psychological and ideological grip of extremist groups on vulnerable communities. They also indicated that the operation is part of a broader strategy aimed at dismantling both the military and ideological backbone of Naxalism.

While security forces continue combing operations against active cadres, parallel efforts are underway to curb recruitment and disrupt support networks. Officials suggested that similar action might be extended to other affected regions as part of the government's comprehensive approach to counterinsurgency. With the sharp escalation in 2026, security agencies signaled that the campaign against Naxalism has now been targeting not just armed activity on the ground but also the symbols that sustain its narrative.

Assam gets new hydro project in elephant area

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

DAM IT! POWER SURGE IN JUMBO CORRIDORS

- The ministry cleared **442 ha** forest land for a **1,500** MW project in Karbi Anglong, costing **₹7,273 CR**
- Total land needed is **484 ha**; developer is Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd
- The project will submerge **352 ha** and affect **1,100**+ people
- Environmental Appraisal Committee classified it as open-loop, not closed-loop, due to non-perennial streams
- Dams (**50 m** lower, **72 m** upper) are in elephant corridors; Kaziranga Karbi Anglong Elephant Reserve is **1.4 km** away

A Union government-appointed committee has given the go-ahead for the diversion of 442 hectares of forest land for a 1500 MW closed-loop pumped storage project in Assam. The ₹7273.23-crore project shares its boundary with an elephant reserve in Karbi Anglong district and will result in the submergence of 352 hectares, impacting over 1,100 people in the region.

A closed-loop pumped storage project is a type of hydroelectric energy storage system where the upper and lower reservoirs are not directly connected to rivers or lakes. Water is recycled between these reservoirs, operating as 'off-river' or 'water batteries'. The project is located in the villages of Lipgaon and Pankumar in Karbi Anglong and is being developed by the Assam Power Distribution Company Limited.

The Environmental Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) noted that 484 hectares of land is required for the project: 441.90 hectares of forest land and 42.10 hectares of non-forest land. The approval for the diversion of 441.90 hectares of forest land is currently under assessment by the ministry.

Under the project, the lower dam will be 50 metres high and the upper dam 72 metres high, both located within elephant corridors. The project will generate excavation muck, solid waste from labour colonies, and construction waste. The committee noted that both the upper and lower reservoirs are located on a non-perennial stream, categorising the project as an open-loop system rather than a closed-loop pumped storage project. The committee observed that the lower dam is situated within the catchment area of a small rain-fed stream, which experiences a six-month dry period. It advised project proponents to prepare a suitable action plan to sustain the natural streams, as these areas are hotspots for biodiversity and vital for maintaining ecosystem services.

Additionally, the EAC remarked that the forest area surrounding the project site has a dense canopy, indicating a mature and ecologically sensitive forest ecosystem. The committee emphasised the need for a detailed survey of the study area to collect accurate data on wild flora and fauna so that the potential impacts on habitat fragmentation and ecological functions can be predicted accurately. It was also noted that the Marat Longri Wildlife Sanctuary is the nearest protected area, located about 10.5 kilometres from the project site, while the Kaziranga Karbi Anglong Elephant Reserve is just 1.4 kilometres away. All project components are situated outside the elephant reserve.

MP districts bordering Maharashtra emerge as transit for illegal cattle trade

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

DISTRICTS neighbouring Maharashtra have emerged as the hotspots of cow smuggling cases in Madhya Pradesh.

As many as 6,014 cases of cow smuggling were registered across Madhya Pradesh between 2020 and 2025, more than half of which (54%) were lodged in districts adjoining Maharashtra. The state government recently shared in the Assembly detailed statistics pertaining to cow smuggling cases registered in the state between 2020 and 2025. Out of the 6,014 cases reported across the state in the aforesaid period, as many as 3,251 cases were reported in the districts of the Mahakoshal and Malwa-Nimar regions, which are neighboured by Maharashtra.

Among the districts neighbouring Maharashtra, a maximum of 727 cases were reported in Seoni, followed by 443 cases each in Khargone and Betul, 370 cases in Barwani, 313 cases in Chhindwara, 304 cases in Balaghat, 251 cases in Khandwa, 237 in Burhanpur, and 163 cases in Pandhurna.

These districts accounted for 54% of the total cases reported throughout the state. Next to the districts bordering Maharashtra were the districts neighboured by Rajasthan, which contributed to 992, or 16.5%, of the total cases in the state, said the detailed reply provided by the government in response to the question by Congress MLA Mahesh Parmar.

Importantly, Parmar's home district, Ujjain, which is also home to CM Dr Mohan Yadav, reported 260 cases in the 2020-2025 period. In a written reply to the question, the state's animal husbandry minister, Lakhan Patel, said that there has been a decrease in the number of cows smuggled in the state during the recent years. Some officers who have headed the police department in districts neighbouring Maharashtra said the statistics are not startling.

6K cases during 2020–25

As many as 6,014 cases of cow smuggling were registered across Madhya Pradesh between 2020 and 2025, more than half of which (54%) were lodged in districts adjoining Maharashtra. A maximum of 727 cases were reported in Seoni

Three
killed in latest US strike on "drugboat" in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	21	1	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	28	24	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	7	2	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	1	-5	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

Iranian students rally for second day amid war fears

DUBAI

NEW anti-government protests have begun in Iran, witnesses said Sunday, as university students in Tehran and another city demonstrated around memorials for thousands of people killed in a crackdown on previous nationwide demonstrations about six weeks ago.

Iran's state news agency said students protested at five universities in the capital, Tehran, and one in the city of Mashhad on Sunday. The scattered protests erupted Saturday at universities following 40-day memorials for people killed in January during anti-government rallies.

Iran's government has not commented on the latest protests. Many Iranians have held ceremonies marking the traditional 40-day mourning period in the past week. Most of the protesters are believed to have been killed around January 8 and 9, according to activists tracking the situation.

People take part in a protest near Iranian Embassy in London on Saturday | AP

Iranians across the country are still reeling with shock, grief and fear after the earlier protests were crushed by the deadliest crackdown ever seen under the rule of 86-year-old Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. Thousands of people were killed and tens of thousands are believed to have been arrested. Although the crackdown tamped down the largest protests, smaller ones are still occurring, according to protesters and to videos shared on social media.During the 1979 Islamic Revolution that toppled the shah and brought the Islamic Republic to power, 40-day memorials for slain protesters often turned into rallies that security forces tried to crush, causing new deaths. Those were then marked 40 days later, with new protests. Posts on social media Saturday and Sunday have alleged that security forces tried to restrict people from attending some 40-day ceremonies. The new protests come while Iran braces for the possibility of a US attack, as the Trump administration pushes for concessions from Iran on its nuclear program. *AP*

EXPRESS READ

Govt weighs curbs on sale of blind boxes

In Singapore, lawmakers and consumer advocates are pushing to regulate blind boxes due to the gambling inducement risks they carry, according to a written address to parliament from Home Affairs Minister Kasiviswanathan Shanmugam. Blind boxes are products (usually toys) sealed in opaque packaging. The contents connot be revealed until after a box is purchased. Most boxes are sold as part of larger collections, many of which are said to contain coveted "rare" items.

Armed intruder shot dead at Don's Mar-a-Lago estate

MIAMI

US Secret Service agents and a sheriff's deputy fatally shot a man armed with a shotgun who breached the security perimeter of President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Trump was in Washington at the time of the incident, which officials said happened around 1:30 am (0630 GMT).

The suspect, a man in his early 20s, was spotted by the north gate of the Mar-a-Lago property, carrying a shot gun and a fuel, the Secret Service said.

Agents confronted the man and told him to disarm, but the man raised his gun.

"The only words that we said to him was 'drop the items' which means the gas can and the shotgun," Palm Beach County sheriff Ric Bradshaw told reporters.

"At which time he put down the gas can, raised the shotgun to a shooting position," Bradshaw said. A deputy and two Secret Service agents then shot him. The individual was pronounced deceased and no US officers were injured.

The Secret Service said no one under its protection was present in Mar-a-Lago at the time. The was no immediate reaction from the White House.

Trump, who often spends his weekends in Mar-a-Lago, has been the target of several assassination plots or attempts.

Earlier this month, Ryan Routh, 59, who plotted to assassinate the president at a Florida golf course in September 2024, two months before the US election, was sentenced to life in prison.

Routh's planned attack on Trump came two months after an assassination attempt on the Republican leader in Pennsylvania, where 20-year-old Matthew Crooks fired several shots during a rally, one of them grazing Trump's right ear. *AFP*

Hamas in final stage of choosing new chief

Cairo: A senior Hamas official told AFP on Sunday that the Palestinian Islamist movement was in the final phase of selecting a new leader, with two prominent figures competing for the position. Hamas recently completed the formation of a new Shura Council of more than 80 members, a consultative body largely composed of religious scholars, as well as a new 18-member political bureau, the official said. Since the war in Gaza began after Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, Israeli forces have killed several of the movement's leaders, including two former chiefs. "The movement has completed its internal elections in the three regions and has reached the final stage of selecting the head of the political bureau," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorised to speak publicly. He added that the race for the group's leadership was now between Khaled Meshaal and Khalil al-Hayya. A second Hamas source confirmed the development. Despite a US-brokered ceasefire that entered its second phase last month, violence has continued in Gaza, with Israel and Hamas blaming each other for violating the agreement. Members of the council are elected every four years by representatives from Hamas's three branches: the Gaza Strip, the occupied West Bank and the movement's external leadership. Hamas prisoners in Israeli jails are also eligible to vote. The council subsequently elects the political bureau, which in turn selects the head of the movement. A third Hamas source said the new leader will serve for only "one year... a transitional period". AFP

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com

No. Tender Online - RWCCESNG - 37 of 2025-26, Letter No.1121 /Dtd. 20.02.2026
25001/220/2526 *e-Procurement NOTICE*

1. Type of the work: Road (MMSY)
2. Class of Contractor: As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of completion: As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects: As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated cost: As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWC-CESNG- 37 of 2025-26	26.02.2026 11:00 AM	13.03.2026 5:00 PM	12.09.2026 5:00 PM	15.03.2026 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
OIPR-25001/25133/1/25-26/0045 **Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer , Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client is desirous of purchasing all that piece and parcel of agricultural lands bearing (a) Survey No. 97/2 measuring 01 Acre 01¼ Guntas ("**Item No. 1**") and (b) Survey No. 97/3 measuring 01 Acre 01¼ Guntas ("**Item No. 2**"). Item Nos. 1 & 2 measuring about 02 Acres 02½ Guntas, both situated at Naraganahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, which are more fully set out in the Schedule below and hereinafter referred to as "Schedule Properties" from the present owners N.D. Ramesh and N.D. Ravikumar both sons of late Dodda Kempanna @ Dodda Kempaiah respectively ("**Owners**").

The Owners have lost/misplaced original title document i.e., **Saguvali Chit dated 31.03.1962** bearing No. LND: SR-1-:460/1961-62 issued by the Amildar, Devanahalli which records that Dodda Kempaiah was granted a portion of Survey No. 69 measuring about 4 Acres and that till date the same is not traceable despite diligent search.The Owners have filed a complaint bearing No. 2071964/2026 intimating the loss of the above said original title document of the Said Property with the Crime Branch, Bangalore Rural Police on 19.02.2026 and has requested the jurisdictional police to return the original title document in the event of the same being traced or someone delivering the same to the Police.

Any person or persons asserting any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Properties or any part thereof, in any manner whatsoever or having any claim against the Schedule Properties or the documents thereof or against the Owners or objecting to such transaction with our clients, should write to the undersigned within **fifteen (15) days** from the date of issuance of this notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to Schedule Properties or any part thereof, after which period our client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of agricultural lands with regard to the survey numbers mentioned in Item Nos. 1 & 2 below, both situated at Naraganahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, are bounded as follows:

Sl. No.	Survey Nos.	Actual Extent		Kharab		Boundaries			
		Acre	Gunta	Acre	Gunta	East	West	North	South
1	97/2	01	01¼	00	01¼	Survey No. 97/3	Survey No. 97/1	Survey No. 62 & Halla	Survey No. 69
2	97/3	01	01¼	00	01¼	Survey No. 69	Survey No. 97/2	Survey No. 62 & Halla	Survey No. 69
Total		02	02½	00	02½				

Sd./- (R. Sunitha), Advocate, CMS INDUSLAW
101, First Floor, "Embassy Classic", No.11, Vittal Mallya Road, Bangalore-1, Ph: +91-80-40726600

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

1st Floor, Jeevan Managal Building, Hayes Road, Bengaluru -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Office of the M/S, LIC Housing Finance Limited the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of security Interest(enforcement) Rule 2002 issued demand notice on below mentioned date calling upon the borrower/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act with rule 9 of the said rules on below mentioned date.

The Borrower and the public in general are here by cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with property will be subject to the charge of M/s. LIC Housing Finance Limited for an amount notice mentioned below and interest thereon,

The Borrower attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of the said ACT, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower, Loan No & Possession Taken Date	Demand Notice Date	Notice Amount	Description of the Property
MR. T YUVARAJ Loan A/c No. 410300000706 412000005511 Symbolic Possession taken Date: 20/02/2026	27/11/2025	Rs. 5520016.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : Item No.1 (Site No.32 (Northern Portion) All that piece and parcel of Northern Portion of the property bearing No.32 New Municipal No.32/7, PID No.32-32-32/7, now situated at 24th Cross, Bhuvaneswarinagar, K.P.Agrahara, Bangalore – 560023, coming under the Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, Ward No.32, New Ward No.121, Bangalore and bounded on the: East by: Madamma's Site now Private Property , West by: Road, North by: Property bearing No.33/7, South by: Remaining Southern Portion of the same Number measuring East to West: 50-0 feet, North to South: 20-0 feet sold To Sri. Selvakumar. And measuring East to West 50-0 (Fifty) feet and North to South 10-0 (Ten) feet, together with A.C. Sheet Roofing residential building thereon, built in with Bricks and Cement Wall, Redoxide Flooring, Jungle Wood Doors and Windows, having (1.0) One Square in the Ground Floor, provided with Electricity, Water Supply and Sanitary Lines etc., Item No.2 (Site No.33 (Southern Portion) All that piece and parcel of Southern Portion of the property bearing No.33 New Municipal No.33/7, PID No.32-32-33/7, now situated at 24th Cross, Bhuvaneswarinagar, K. P. Agrahara, Bangalore – 560023, coming under the Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, Ward No.32, New Ward No.121, Bangalore and bounded on the: East by: Madamma's Site now Private Property, West by: Road, North by: Remaining Northern Portion of the same Number measuring East to West: 50-0 feet, North to South: 20-0 feet. South by: Northern portion of the property bearing No.32/7, measuring East to West: 50-0 feet and North to South10-0 feet Belonging to the Purchaser herein. And measuring East to West 50-0 (Fifty) feet and North to South 10-0 (Ten) feet, together with A.C .Sheet Roofing residential building thereon, built in with Bricks and Cement Wall, Redoxide Flooring, Jungle Wood Doors and Windows, having (1.0) One Square in the Ground Floor, provided with Electricity, Water Supply and Sanitary Lines etc.,
MR. AMBAREESH J Loan A/c no. 4001030000779 Symbolic Possession taken Date : 20/02/2026	18/10/2025	Rs. 3462767.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Site No.10 Old Survey No.46/1, then Survey No.59, Presently converted Survey No.59/4, converted to Agricultural to Non-Agricultural Residential Purpose to Sub-Central Business Area, vide its conversion Application No.30855, Dated 30-07-2020 and Conversion Rectification Order dated 10-08-2020, issued by the Deputy Commissioner Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore, "E" Katha No.1422/59/4, Property ID No.150200400401121904, in the residential layout known as "CONFIDENT LILIAN – PHASE III", situated at Halehalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore measuring East to West: 30 Feet and North to South: on the Eastern Side: 31 Feet, on the Western Side: 30.02 Feet, in all measuring 915.03 Square Feet and bounded on the: East by: Site No.9, West by: Site No.11, North by: Private Property Survey No.59/3, South by: Road. The schedule property consists of 780 Square Feet in Ground Floor, 780 Square in First Floor, and 420 Squares in Second Floor, RCC Roofed House, constructed with red bricks and cement, Vitrified Flooring, Honne Wood Doors and Windows, Water, Electricity, Sanitary and Overhead Water tank, with all civic amenities.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 23.02.2026

Sd/- Authorized Officer
LIC Housing Finance Limited

IN THE COURT OF THE CCH-14 XXXI ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE
O.S.No.3355/2025

BETWEEN: Mr. Aditya Desiraju,
S/o Dr. D.Rajagopal Rao,
R/o at #694, Vishwamanava Double Road, Mysore-570009 ... **Plaintiff**

AND

Mr. N.Dinesh Rao ... **Defendant**

SUMMONS / NOTICE TO DEFENDANT U/O 5 RULE 20 OF CPC

DEFENDANT: Mr. N.Dinesh Rao
NO.18/1A-4, 9th Main Road, Rajmahal Vilas, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru-560080.

WHEREAS the plaintiff has instituted a Original Suit Proceedings against the Defendant for a vacant, quite and deliver vacant position of the suit schedule property to the plaintiff in the following schedule properties and also for other consequential relief/s against you. The defendant is hereby summoned to appear before this court in person or through a pleader on **26th day of March 2026 at 11.00 A.M.** to answer the same, failing which the suit schedule will be disposed off against you as exparte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

The Residential Apartment bearing Muncipal No.18/1A-4 situated at property bearing No.36/A/18/1, Under the name Tejus nest Apartment, situated at 9th Main, 4th Cross, Rajmahal Vilas Extension, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru-560080 totally measuring 2650 Sqft consisting of three bedrooms with attached toilets, living and dining room, kitchen, pooja and study room and together with all fittings and fixtures etc bounded on

East by: 4th Cross, RMV Extension
West by: Property belonging to Gautham Desiraju and Keshav Narasimha Desiraju
North by: 9th Main Road, RMV Extension
South by: Property bearing No.35/2 belonging to the family of late D.Krishna Rao.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 19th day of February 2026.

By Order of the Court Senior Sheristedar City Civil Court Bengaluru
H M POORINIMA, Advocate
No.8/1, Raika Road, Patel Ramaiah Layout, Hennuru Bagaluru Main Road, Kothnur, Bengaluru-560077.

QuoteExpress
ONCE A NEW TECHNOLOGY ROLLS OVER YOU, IF YOU'RE NOT PART OF THE STEAMROLLER, YOU'RE PART OF THE ROAD
STEWART BRAND

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK

(A Scheduled Commercial Bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 &12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

The undersigned as authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction)of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS "** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on 15.02.2026	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last Date Time & Place for submission of Bid
1	45359630000932 & 45359410000741	1) Mr. Bogananjunda, 2) Mrs. Bhagya	12.06.2025	24.12.2025	Rs.7,16,798.35 (Rupees Seven Lakh Sixteen Hundred Seven Hundred Ninety Eight and Thirty Five Paisa Only)	16.03.2026 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.8,36,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand Only)	Rs.83,600/- (Rupees Eighty Three Thousand Six Hundred Only)	30.03.2026 @ 02:00 PM	28.03.2026, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Details of Secured Assets: All the piece and parcel the for property E-Khatha No.152900202200200806, Khaneshumari No.670/567, measuring, East to West 8.8392 meters, and North to south 14.6304 meters, situated at Nallahalli Village, Nallahalli Dhakle and Grama Panchayath, Uyyamballi Hobli, Kanakapura Block, Ramnagara District and **Bounded by: East:** House belongs to Nanjaiah, S/o. Srikantagowda, **West:** Remaining Same property, **North:** Remaining Same property, **South:** K.Doddalahalli, Mullahalli Main Road.									

The properties are being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** & **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and the E-Auction will be conducted **'On Line'.** The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **M/s. 4 Closure** at the web portal **https://bankauctions.in** & **www.foreclosureindia.com.** For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/s. 4 Closure; Contact Mr. Varun B Contact Number: 8142000809. Email id: info@bankauctions.in/ Karnataka@bankauctions.in..**

For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact **Jana Small Finance Bank authorized officers Mr. Ranjan Naik (Mob. No.6362951653).** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named Borrowers/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 23.02.2026, Place: Bangalore Rural — Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

ASREC (India) Limited

Bldg No. 2, Unit No. 201-202A & 200-202B, Gr. Floor,Solitaire Corporate Park, Andheri Ghatkopar Link Road, Chakala, Andheri (E), Mumbai-400093.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002

We, ASREC **(India)** Limited is a Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and registered with Reserve Bank of India as Securitization and Asset Reconstruction Company under the provisions of Section 3 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 **("SARFAESI Act")** and having its registered office at Solitaire Corporate Park, Building No. 2, Unit No. 201/202A & 200-202B, Ground Floor, Andheri – Ghatkopar Link Road, Chakala, Andheri – (East), Mumbai- 40 0093.

Pursuant to the Assignment deed dated 31.01.2024, M/s. SMFG India Credit Company Ltd, (formerly M/s. Fullerton India Credit Company Ltd) the original lender irrevocably transferred, assigned the financial assets along with all rights, title and interest together with underlying security interest in favour of ASREC (India) Limited. Consequently, the ASREC (India) Limited has become secured creditor by virtue of Section 5 of SARFAESI Act and entitled to pursue recovery proceeding in its own name and recover the dues from the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors. Therefore, undersigned is entitled to issue this demand notice.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ASREC (India) Ltd under Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the concerned Borrowers / Property Holders, as the case may be, to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Notice; within 60 days from the date of respective Notice, as per details given below. For various reasons this notice could not be served on the concerned borrowers. Copies of the notice are available with undersigned; and the concerned borrowers may, if they so desire, collect the said copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours. All the account listed here below stand N.P.A. On the date of issue of demand notice mentioned below.

However, the Notice is hereby given to the concerned Borrowers, where necessary, to pay to ASREC (India) Ltd; within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice the amounts indicated herein below due on the dates together with future interest at contractual rates till the date of payment, under the loan/ and other agreements and documents executed by the concerned persons.

Sl No	Loan A/c No. Name of Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors	Details of security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice.	Amount Due in Rs. / As on
1.	LAN No: 84164150000004 1.Chandrashekara Nagaraju Munivenkatamma Nagaraju	The A C sheet house bearing khatha in 27/90/P23, Property measuring East-West 43 Feet and North-South 35, including house situated at Vaddaradoddi village, Manchegowdanapalya Post, Grama Panchayath Gopahalli, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagar Taluk, Ramanagar Dist. Property is owned by Munivenkatamma. Bounded by (Residential Building) East: Own land, West: Own land North: Road, South: Own land.	28-02-2021 & 24.12.2024	Rs. 14,07,049.10 as on 30.11.2024
2.	LAN No: 83484150000025 1.Shivaraju A S 2.Pushpalatha P	The AC Sheet house bearing property no-190/11, E-Khata No.1529002041013 20011, measuring East-West: 12.192 meters and North-South: 9.144 meters, Total extent 111.48 Sq meters, house buildup area 111.00 sq meters, situated at Arekoppa village, Kanakapura taluk & Ramanagar district. Under the limit of I.Gollahalli grama. Property is owned by Shivaraju. Bounded by (Residential Building) East: Site no-10, West: Site no-12, North: Road, South: Government land.	31-03-2021 & 24.12.2024	Rs. 4,53,086.04 as on 30.11.2024
3.	LAN No: 83464150000028 1.Ravi Muddegowda 2.Manjula Ravi	The house bearing khata no.554/484, Measuring East-West: 25 Feet and North-South: 25 Feet, situated at Iggaluru Village Virupakshipura Hobli, Channapatna Taluk Ramanagara District. Property is owned by Manjula. East: House of Dodda thayamma, West: Property of Chinnast.amygowda, North: Road, South: Own site.	31-12-2020 & 24.12.2024	Rs. 13,55,339.03 as on 31.12.2024
4.	LAN No: 83464150000081 1.J D Venkatesh 2.Shantha J D Venkatesh 3.Lakshmamma Dasaiah	The house bearing khata no.36/2, Measuring East-West: 32 Feet and North-South: 35 feet situated at Jakkanahalli Village Kailancha Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk Ramanagara District. Property is owned by Lakshmamma. East: Vecent site of Shivakumar Swamy, West: Government Road, North: House of Shanthala, South: House of Somashekhar.	31-03-2021 & 24.01.2025	Rs. 9,98,171.69 as on 31.12.2024
5.	LAN No: 83464150000092 1.Mahadevu P 2.Vishalamma Madevu	The house bearing property no.326/222/8, and E-Khata No.152900200500500 361, Measuring East-West: 12.192 Meters and North-South: 9.144 Meters, situated at Dunthuru Village Sathanuru Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk Ramanagara District. Property is owned by Vishalakshi. East: Survey no 61 Property of Nagaraju, West: Governament Road, North: Property of Ramanna, South:Governament Road.	31-12-2020 & 24.01.2025	Rs. 10,02,718.25 as on 31.12.2024
6.	LAN No: 83464150000448 1.Ramachandraiah Muninarasaiah 2.Lakshmamma Ramachandraiah	The house bearing property no. 327/433/23 and E-Khata No.1529003003010000 25 Measuring East-West: 9.4488 Meters and North-South: 6.7056000000000004 Meters, Situated at Matha Village, Madbal Hobali, Magadi Taluk Ramanagara District. Property is owned by Ramachandraiah. East: Vacant Site of Muniyappa, West: Road, North: Galli, South: House of Krishnappa.	28-02-2021 & 24.01.2025	Rs. 14,15,321.50 as on 31.12.2024
7.	LAN No: 84174150000179 1.Govindaraj DM 2.Pramila M	The House bearing property no.23/12p, measuring East to west 20 feet, north to south 30 feet, situated at Doddamuddenahalli Village, Vijayapura Hobali, Devanahalli taluk, Bangalore Rural district. Property is owned by M. Pramila under the limit of Harohalli Grama panchayath, and bounded on East: Property of Doddamuniyappa, West: Property of Marappa, North: Property of Narayanaswamy, South: Property of Thirumalappa,	31-03-2023 & 20.03.2025	Rs. 4,88,782.15 as on 28.02.2025

If the concerned Borrowers / Property Holders, as the case may be, and his / their heirs, if necessary, shall fail to make payment to Asrec (India) Ltd as aforesaid, then the Asrec (India) Ltd shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the concerned Borrowers / Property Holders as the case may be, and his / their heirs, if necessary, as to the costs and consequences.

The borrower attention's is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section (13) of the act in respect of the time limit available to redeem the secure assets

The concerned Borrowers / Property Holders, as the case may be, and his / their heirs, if necessary, are prohibited by the SARFAESI Act to transfer the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of the Asrec (India) Ltd. Any contravention of the provisions of the SARFAESI Act will render the borrowers and the property holders responsible for the offence liable to punishment and / or penalty in accordance with the SARFAESI Act.

Date: 21.02.2026
Place: Mumbai

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
ASREC (India) Limited

4.85 MN BPD was India India's average crude imports during February 1-18, down 8% from January's 5.25 million barrels per day, according to shipping data and analysts

Mkt may see positive start amid volatility

Striking down of Trump's global tariff order by US top court is positive for mkts, temporary tariffs to raise uncertainty

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

DOMESTIC equity market is likely to witness a positive start on Monday following the US Supreme Court's decision to strike down President Donald Trump's global tariff order. However, the market may face uncertainty over Trump's future course of action and his announcement that temporary tariffs on all US imports will be raised from 10% to 15%.

"This development is a significant positive for export-oriented sectors as businesses will now be subject to a uniform 10% global import duty under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 for 150 days — a provision that has been invoked for the first time. For India, the effective tariff burden is expected to ease from 25% to 10%. Although an 18% rate had been broadly agreed upon under the interim trade understanding, it was yet to be formally notified," said Sudeep Shah, Head - Technical and Derivatives Research at SBI Securities.

Shah added that for sectors such as IT, pharma, metals, textiles and energy stand to benefit from the reduction in tariff uncertainty. The introduction of a uniform 10% rate across countries also removes the relative disadvantage arising from differential trade arrangements with the US.

"Another important aspect to monitor is the uncertainty surrounding the nearly $175 billion collected under tariffs over the past year and the potential implications of refund claims. That said, the situation remains fluid. Any fresh statements or alternative tariff actions under different

presidential authorities could reintroduce volatility in the near term," said Shah. Going ahead, key market triggers will include the trajectory of inflation and movements in the US Dollar Index.

The US Supreme Court on February 20, invalidated Trump's broad global tariffs in a 6-3 verdict, ruling he overreached under the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act, a rare judicial limit on his agenda. Trump labelled the outcome "deeply disappointing" and quickly enacted a 10% temporary tariff on all imports under Section 122, starting February 24 for 150 days. On Saturday, he said the temporary levy would be raised further to 15%, the maximum permitted under Section 122 of US trade law.

For India, he stressed the recent US-India trade pact holds firm. India and the US recently reached an interim agreement that lowered reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods to 18%, while India agreed to reduce certain tariffs and non-tariff barriers on US imports. As of now, it remains unclear whether Indian goods would be taxed 15% or 18% in the US.

Analysts at Elara Capital said while the US Supreme Court ruling removes a key event for the markets, they remain sceptical about next steps the administration may take. The intertemporal lag until the next move by the administration, (new sections, tariffs etc.) is likely to raise uncertainty among US importers and may frontload business spending and imports in H1CY26 to take advantage of 10% tariffs, getting into wait-and-watch mode in 2HCY26.

"As usual, the randomness of the tariff announcements leaves some questions unanswered – Notably, what will happen to the negotiated trade deals, and the related subsections," said Elara Capital in a note.

IN CONVERSATION

VIVEK RAGHAVAN
Co-founder, Sarvam AI

'India should lead in sovereign AI, put tech into users' hands at scale'

WHEN it comes to building sovereign AI models in India, Sarvam AI has emerged as one of the key players. Founded in July 2023 by Vivek Raghavan and Pratyush Kumar, the Bengaluru-based startup aims to make generative AI accessible at scale across India. Unlike many start-ups that fine-tune existing global models, Sarvam is building its own foundation models from scratch. In April 2025, the company was selected under the IndiaAI Mission to help develop India's first indigenous large language model. The start-up also showcased AI-powered glasses, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi tried at the event. In an interview with **Rakesh Kumar**, **Vivek Raghavan** discussed the challenges Sarvam faced in building these models and shared how they compare with global platforms such as ChatGPT and Gemini.

What were the most significant technical and operational challenges you faced while building a foundation model of this scale in India?
Building a foundation model is an extremely complex task. Our team, led by Pratyush and supported by many talented young developers, has worked very hard to make this possible. It is not an easy undertaking. We trained the model on a large dataset of about 18 trillion tokens. The models range in size from 30 billion to 105 billion parameters. Training systems of this scale is highly challenging, especially since this is the first time such an effort has been undertaken in India.

This model serves as a foundation. We hope it inspires many more teams in the country to build similar systems. This is something India must do, and while Sarvam is taking the lead, many others will follow.

Whenever something is being done for the first time, there are technical and operational hurdles. It is important for India that such successes are widely recognised. It needs deep expertise, sustained effort, and strong teams

Were there funding issues?
Under the IndiaAI Mission, GPUs were made available to us to train the model, which was helpful. However, the challenges go beyond funding.

Whenever something is being done for the first time, there are multiple technical and operational hurdles. It is important for India that such successes are widely recognised as building a foundation model of this scale is not something that just anyone can accomplish. It requires deep expertise, sustained effort, and strong teams.

How do Sarvam's models compare with international models?
Globally, there are large models, mainly from countries like the US and others, which are much bigger than ours and backed by investments running into hundreds of billions of dollars. Naturally, such models may demonstrate certain additional capabilities.

However, within the 100 billion-parameter category, we believe our model can be compared with some of the best in the world.

Which industries or sectors are adopting Sarvam AI's models, and what kind of real-world impact are you seeing?
Sarvam AI is being used across multiple sectors. For example, our voice AI systems handle over 1 million minutes of conversations every day. Enterprise adoption has been strong, many organisations integrating our AI solutions into their operations.

Why is it important for India to develop its own sovereign AI models rather than relying on global platforms?
AI is a strategic tech. The simplest way to explain it is that AI today is like nuclear power. There are countries that possess nuclear capability and those that do not. AI will create a similar divide. India must decide which side of that divide it wants to be on.

Can we expect this to scale up?
Yes, absolutely. The real challenge is not just building the model, but scaling it for widespread use. Creating a model is one step; ensuring that it reaches people and is used effectively is far more important. We need to focus on how to put this technology into the hands of users at scale, while managing the associated costs.

MONEY-WISE

INTRODUCTION TO REITS AND INVITS

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

REAL Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) are regulated investment vehicles that allow retail and institutional investors to gain exposure to real estate and infrastructure sectors without directly owning or managing physical assets.

REITs invest in income-generating commercial assets like offices, malls, and warehouses, while InvITs focus on revenue-generating projects like highways, power transmission lines, and pipelines.

Both are listed on exchanges like NSE and BSE, and are overseen by SEBI for transparency and investor protection. They must distribute at least 90% of their taxable income as dividends, making them appealing for income-focused portfolios.

Whether an Indian investor should invest in them depends on factors like risk tolerance, investment horizon, and portfolio diversification needs. They can be suitable for those seeking steady income and long-term growth, but they come with market-linked risks. Here are the advantages and disadvantages: REITs have gained popularity since their introduction in 2019, with assets under management growing significantly by 2025.

REITs

Provide steady dividend income (typically 6-8% yield) from rentals, plus potential for capital appreciation over time. However, dividends are taxed at the investor's slab rate with 10% TDS, reducing net returns; no special tax benefits like those for direct real estate.

Low entry barrier with minimum investment of ₹50,000 per lot, allows small investors to participate without buying full properties. Subject to market volatility, including property value fluctuations and interest rate changes can impact borrowing costs and valuations.

Enable portfolio diversification into commercial real estate; professionally managed, reducing operational burdens.

Limited growth prospects in saturated markets; cash flow issues if occupancy rates drop. It has high degree of transparency (thanks to SEBI) and good liquidity by listing on the stock exchanges. The risk of lower rentals if the economy does badly surely remains.

What about InvITs?

Introduced in 2014, target infrastructure assets have seen strong performance in 2025, outperforming benchmarks.

InvITs offer stable, predictable cash flows from long-term contracts like tolls or power purchase pacts. It has higher risk from project-specific issues like delays, cost overruns, or regulatory changes; political risks can affect projects more than real estate. Allows investment in large-scale projects with small lot size of ₹1,00,000. Dividends and interest taxed at slab rates and no pass-through tax benefits for capital gains.Provides diversification into infrastructure; professionally managed with focus on revenue-generating assets.Lower liquidity compared to REITs.

Listed on exchanges for liquidity; SEBI oversight ensures transparency.Sensitive to interest rates and economic cycles; potential for lower returns if contracts underperform.

MONEY MATTERS

HOW TO MAKE SENSE OF THE IT SECTOR MELTDOWN

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

INVESTING is all about finding the right price for an asset. For the right price, you may sell an asset you have owned for a long time or buy a new one. On the sell side, it is about appreciation in value; on the buy side, it is about fallen value. For many years, information technology services (IT services) stocks like TCS, Infosys, Wipro, HCL Tech were bellwethers. No matter the domestic situation, the export of software was a secular global market demand. Indian companies excelled in offering services that large foreign corporations needed since 2000.

The dramatic disruption due to advances in artificial intelligence means that technology is eating into the same business that perhaps helped build those smart software codes. Once modern computers know a programming language, they can write software to achieve clients' desired outcomes. After pricing services by man-hours, software services companies began charging per line of code. It is hard to justify pricing now that the basic codes are not written by humans.

The Nifty IT sector index is down 16% this year, while the Nifty 50 index is flat. A significant chunk of that slump is attributed to fears about the durability of the business model in an AI world, rather than short-term profitability, according to Kotak Securities' analysis.

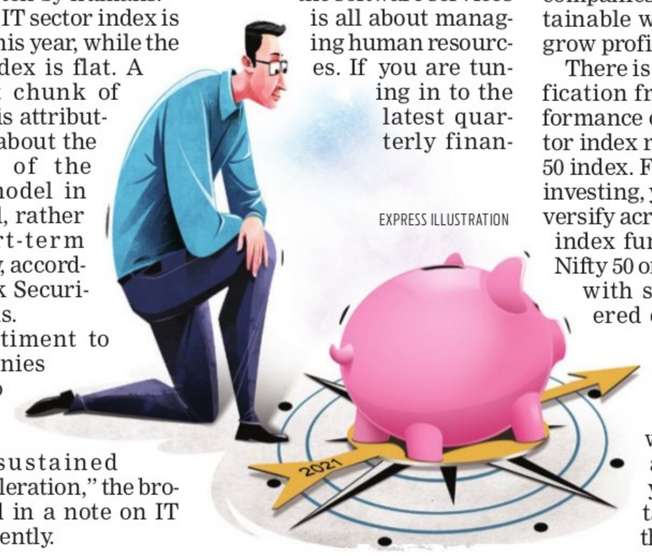
"For sentiment to turn,companies will need to demonstrate visible and sustained growth acceleration," the brokerage said in a note on IT services recently.

What does it mean

The last thing you would want to do is panic and sell everything 'technology' you own. If you are a direct stock market investor, you may want to step back and take stock of the situation. Understand the impact of these developments on these businesses that boast of debt-free balance sheets and have historically paid dividends to shareholders. Can businesses be wiped out by disruptions? Sure, that applies to any business. However, most software services firms are well managed and do not carry the baggage of legacy manufacturing businesses. The entire game in the software services is all about managing human resources. If you are tuning in to the latest quarterly financial results and related conference calls, you may know that hiring in the software services has already slowed. Whenever there was a headwind, software companies figured out a way to bounce back. This time, a section of analysts believes that repercussions of the AI-led disruption could be far deeper than just headwinds. That means businesses that can adapt and change their business models quickly will do better than those that do not. In the past, software companies have endured the dotcom bust in 2000s, the global financial crisis in 2008 and the COVID pandemic. They can pivot quickly to tackle the new challenges posed by generative AI. They have to figure out a way to become conductors of the 'AI orchestra' rather than just being labour providers.

When stock prices correct sharply, valuations tend to become cheap. However, if future profits are threatened or uncertain, it could be hard to find the right value. Buying into IT services stocks could also be like catching falling knives in the short-term. It may take a year or two for the companies to figure out a sustainable way to maintain or grow profits.

There is a lesson in diversification from the underperformance of the Nifty IT sector index relative to the Nifty 50 index. For someone new to investing, you may want to diversify across sectors with an index fund that tracks the Nifty 50 or Nifty 500.Starting with something considered cheap may not be the right way forward. It is also a topic you may want to discuss with your financial advisor. Treat what you read here as talking points for that conversation.



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

'Birla Opus entry has not hit margins'

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

NEARLY two years after the Aditya Birla Group entered the decorative paints market with Birla Opus, fears of a bruising price war appear to have receded. Incumbent player Indigo Paints says the much-anticipated doomsday scenario for industry profitability has not materialised, even as competition intensifies across pricing and product categories.

Speaking during the company's Q3 earnings call, Chairman Hemant Jalan asserted that industry margins have remained resilient despite aggressive spending and discounting by the new entrant. The paints sector had been derated by analysts on expectations of a sharp hit to profitability after Birla Opus launched with steep discounts and expanded capacity.

Indigo Paints leveraging relatively high gross margins

Instead of engaging in price war, Indigo is leveraging its relatively high gross margins—reported at 47.1%, among the highest in the sector—to deploy calibrated trade discounts. This, the company indicated, provides headroom to compete for market share without eroding profitability

"Time has borne itself out that we were right. Nobody's profitability has been impacted," Jalan said, adding that while the new entrant may have gained some market share, it has done so at a significant cost to itself.

Birla Opus had entered the market as the "cheapest available" product with the "highest level of discount," Jalan noted. Even after a recent 2–3% price hike, it continues to remain among the most competitively priced offerings in the market. However, this has not translated into an industry-wide margin compression so far.

The competitive landscape is currently marked by mixed pricing actions. While Birla Opus has raised prices marginally, AkzoNobel has implemented selective price cuts, and Berger Paints has adjusted prices in both directions across segments.

Jalan downplayed the broader significance of these moves, describing them as tactical rather than structural. According to him, pricing trends in the industry are largely dictated by the market leader, Asian Paints. In the absence of a decisive shift from the top player, the current equilibrium—marked by stable prices but competitive trade discounts—is likely to continue.

IDFC First Bank detects ₹590 cr fraud in Chandigarh branch, suspends four

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

IDFC FIRST Bank has flagged a potential ₹590 crore fraud at one of its branches in Chandigarh involving accounts linked to departments of the Haryana government and has suspended four officials pending probe.

In a stock exchange filing under SEBI's Listing Regulations on February 21, the bank said it identified "unauthorised and fraudulent activities" by certain employees at a branch in Chandigarh, potentially in collusion with other individuals, entities or counterparties. The issue surfaced after the bank received a request from a Haryana government department seeking closure of its account and transfer of funds to another bank. During the process, discrepancies were observed between the amount mentioned in the request and balance reflected in the account.

Subsequently, from February 18 onwards, certain other Haryana government entities engaged with the bank for their respective accounts. Differences were observed between balances in the bank's records and balances cited by the entities.

As per the bank's internal review, the matter is confined to a specific group of government-linked accounts operated via Chandigarh branch.

The amount under reconciliation across identified accounts is ₹590 crore. The bank said the final impact would depend on further information, validation of claims, recoveries, liabilities of other entities involved in the transactions, and the outcome of recovery proceedings.

The bank has convened meetings of its Special Committee of the Board for Monitoring and Follow-up of Cases of Frauds (SCBMF), Audit Committee, and the Board of Directors on February 20 and 21 to apprise them of the developments. It is in the process of appointing an independent external agency to conduct a forensic audit, and has informed its statutory auditors.

Are seven lefties one too many for Surya and Co?

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Ahmedabad

THERE are enough tactical studies out there laying out the advantages of a left-handed heavy batting unit in this format, especially at the top. It's why most of the early disruptors and, since then, the winningest teams have had at least one or two of that batting type up in the top three.

When India sat down to plan their way ahead in this format post the 2024 T20 World Cup, they were keen on building a dynasty and one of those steps was building a batting unit heavy on left-handers (it also explains why South Africa have two lefties in the top three and have more in reserve).

But India may be forced to relook this strategy of theirs. Having a trio of them up top invites off-spin. Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma and Ishan Kishan have played tons of off-spin wearing their India jersey and have routinely despatched them to the boundary. They have also had a lot of practice playing that particular bowling type for their various franchise and state teams. But when you are not on form or when you allow uncertainty to creep up, it can act as a chimera. Why this batting unit has been a joy to watch over the last two years is because of the utter role clarity with which they have operated. Sanju Samson not making a run in the run-up to the World Cup upset those plans but it didn't matter because another left-hander joined the top-order.

Abhishek Sharma's trio of noughts, coupled with Varma's shaky performances against spin in the powerplay, had allowed that chimera to grow. At the pre-match press conference, Suryakumar Yadav had to answer several questions pertaining to Varma and Sharma.

On Sunday, Kishan, the one left-hander who has sparkled so far, was dismissed for a zero. Given all the talk, Aiden Markram was always going to open the bowling with his off-spin and it did the trick, a slightly floated full-length delivery did enough off the surface. Kishan, who has reaped his rewards batting in this manner, wanted to clear mid-wicket but the edge didn't clear the in-field on the off-side.

Sharma, a fluent shot-maker thanks to a very clear understanding of his role in this side, looked up to the heavens and punched Varma's gloves after hitting a boundary behind square on the off-side, his first runs of the tournament. But you could see that he has allowed this run of his to affect his thinking. After surviving spin, he gave into Marco Jansen's clever change of pace.

The one ultra questionable shot selection sandwiched the loss of Kishan and Sharma, Varma. Jansen, who has already had one of the great tours of India across formats over the last four months, pitched one on a middle stump line and going away from Varma's swinging arc. But the left-hander, who received a lot of support from his captain on Saturday evening, decided to charge down the track. After seeing a pacer, he was perhaps tempted to get some rhythm. But it was a wild, speculative across the line swipe and needless in the extreme. What makes Varma such a joy to watch is his ability to think clearly and marry that with his execution. Here, there was neither logic nor execution. And to rub salt into the wounds, he decided to review the edge. Even in real time, it was clear that he had nicked it through the keeper.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Samson may earn recall to top-order

The Indian team management confirmed that they will give serious consideration to give Sanju Samson a recall for the second Super 8s game. Assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate, who called the defeat 'disappointing', confirmed as much in the post match press conference. Samson was of course primed to start the tournament as Abhishek Sharma's batting partner up top but because of a crisis of confidence, he was dropped just before the WC began.

Washington Sundar is one of the India's seven lefties who played on Sunday | AP

WHAT WENT WRONG

AS SOUTH AFRICA HAMMERED INDIA BY 76 RUNS, A LOOK...

Varun's off day

It was always going to be the turning point as Dewald Brevis and David Miller took the attack to Varun Chakravarthy. The spinner came back to dismiss Miller, but he went for 47 runs. The last time he gave away as many runs or more was against same team at same venue (4/53) in December 2025.

Trouble at top

Despite Suryakumar Yadav's backing, India's top three failed to set templates yet again. And it did not help that this was the first time they were chasing in the tournament. Losing three early wickets and not having Axar Patel in the XI meant India were always playing catching up and it was not enough.

What next for India

This loss means the holders will have to beat Zimbabwe and West Indies in upcoming games to keep their semifinal hopes alive

12
India's 1st loss in T20 World Cup after 12 games

Abhishek Sharma could manage only 15 runs | AP

INDIA BATTERED & BRUISED

South Africa do to holders what the co-hosts have routinely been doing to everybody else

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Ahmedabad

SHORTLY after the Indian run-chase began on a relatively pleasant Sunday evening in the city, the scorer informed the scribes that over 82,000 fans had come through the turnstiles. You probably would have wanted a bigger crowd but that's only because the Narendra Modi Stadium can hold over a lakh and change. In most other cricket Stadiums save the Melbourne Cricket Ground, it would be a sell out.

Most of those fans — it was a circular Blue Wall when it began filling up before the toss — had come in expecting an Indian win and one step closer to seeing this team on March 8, two Sundays from now. This team now has a lot of work to do to ensure they make that final.

At about 9.20 PM, this place resembled a library. The fans, who had created enough of a din in the first part of the match, were shushed into submission thanks to a statement performance by the Proteas. The DJ tried to rev up the crowd with chants of 'Surya, Surya, Surya', imploring them to join in. But the result was already in the post by then.

They picked the right team — something India didn't do — kept at it when they were behind the game in the first innings before delivering a blowout performance with the ball. In essence, they did to India something India have routinely done to all teams in this format since winning the World Cup two years earlier.

Sunday was the kind of night the cavernous Narendra Modi Stadium was built for. A big encounter under the lights against one of the game's foremost outfits. Sure, it has hosted a lot of bilateral contests across formats but this was going to be a different night. A World Cup game in the latter stages. The last time the stage was as grand as this in this city, Australia and Travis Head had won the World Cup. Sunday, then, was going to be an opportunity to win back some of those hearts.

Twenty minutes into the contest, Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh had already put the hosts in position A1. Three for 20 after four overs. It was a dream of a beginning as the visitors were in disarray. Skipper Aiden Markram, who has thrived in his new role as enforcer up top, was supposed to be a key wicket. And the Indian new bowlers had done their homework on a wicket where the odd ball held a little in the surface. Apart from burgling Markram's wicket, they had also sent back Quintin de Kock and Ryan Rickelton, the latter thanks to an improbable skill from Bumrah.

But that's when the complexion of the match started to turn. David Miller and Dewald Brevis are at the opposite ends of their cricketing journey but they are united by their ability to find the gaps, clear the boundary line and possess this fearlessness when attacking. So what if I'm going to lose my wicket. It's the exact kind of attitude they took as they tore into Varun Chakravarthy, who returned figures of 1/47 (three wides). His radar malfunctioned as soon as Brevis and Miller went downtown and that was the big thing; they cleared the front leg and ensured they hit him in areas he couldn't hurt them.

But where India erred was in picking Washington Sundar over Axar Patel. The former didn't do too wrong (0/17 in two overs) but he never really threatened on a strip where they missed Patel's accuracy and his calmness on the field. But the team management decided to drop the vice-captain and it was one of the many reasons why they must now play catch up. Not everything is lost though, it's their first World Cup loss after 12 wins on the bounce. Under Suryakumar Yadav, this team has a win-loss ratio of over five. They now have to channel that over the next week to make the semis.

And that's really why the second phase of the World Cup is great as the jeopardy is dialled up. Their garden path to the semifinals has now turned treacherous. They can't afford any more missteps.

India captain Suryakumar Yadav walks off the field as South African cricketers celebrate his wicket on Sunday | AP

BRIEF SCORES: SA 187/7 in 20 ovs (Miller 63, Brevis 45, Stubbs 44; Bumrah 3/15) **bt** India 111 in 18.5 ovs (Dube 42; Jansen 4/22, Maharaj 3/24).

England rout Sri Lanka

AGENCIES @ Kandy

ENGLAND bundled out Sri Lanka for 95 to give captain Harry Brook a perfect birthday present as they opened the T20 World Cup Super Eights phase with a 51-run win in Kandy.

After England were asked to bat first and scored what looked like a below-par 146-9, Jofra Archer and Will Jacks took five wickets during the six-over power play to leave Sri Lanka's top order in tatters at 34-5. "That's a beautiful birthday present," said Brook, who turned 27 on Sunday.

England players celebrate a wicket | AFP

"I thought we played exceptionally there. To get over the line and bowl them out for less than 100 is an awesome effort.

BRIEF SCORES: England 146/9 in 20 ovs (Salt 62, Jacks 21; Wellalage 3/26) **bt** SL 95 in 16.4 ovs (Shanaka 30; Jacks 3/22).

CAN ZIM TOPPLE WINDIES?

WITH ZIMBABWE TAKING ON WEST INDIES IN THEIR FIRST SUPER 8S CLASH, A LOOK...

Unbeaten Bennett

Brian Bennett is yet to get out in this WC. He has two fifties and an unbeaten 48 so far, playing a vital role in Zimbabwe topping their group. Can he continue to do the same against the two-time champions?

All-rounders galore

Sherfane Rutherford. Romario Shepherd. Jason Holder. These three pace-bowling all-rounders have been integral to West Indies' run in the WC. They will have to double down with the bat in Super 8s.

Blessing vs Hope

Blessing Muzarabani has been their star pacer through the group stage. It will be no different in Super 8s as the lanky Zimbabwe pacer will be a challenge for Shai Hope at the top. How he and Brandon King counter Muzarabani will be key.

Shai Hope

Blessing Muzarabani

ZIMBABWE VS WEST INDIES @ WANKHEDE | 7 PM • LIVE ON STAR SPORTS AND JIOHOTSTAR

Vaishnavi second-best in title match

SAPTARSHI C @ Bengaluru

BELGIUM'S rising force Hanne Vandewinkel delivered a masterclass as the World No 124 cruised past wildcard Vaishnavi Adkar 6-0, 6-1 to clinch the KPB Trust ITF Women's Open W100 in Bengaluru.

Ranked No 690, the 21-year-old, who has trained under former World No 1 Rohan Bopanna, was playing the biggest match of her career. And it showed as she could not match Vandewinkel's poise, precision, and relentless consistency. With the strong hold at the baseline shots and clear return, the Belgian dictated the tempo throughout the game.

Adkar showed glimpses of promise in the third game of the second set, striking a couple of winners to hold serve for the first time. She then earned three break points in the fourth game as Vandewinkel briefly faltered. However, the Belgian adjusted with sharp tactical awareness, mixing up her returns and cleverly changing angles to throw Adkar off balance.

Adkar said it was a learning experience for her. "Learned a lot of things, and especially after a tough year last year, a week like this is really going to be helpful," she said.

Belgium's Hanne Vandewinke (R) against India's Vaishnavi Adkar after their match at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium in Bengaluru on Sunday | KEVIN NASHON

Winter Oly: 1st ice hockey gold for US since 1980

AGENCIES @ Milan

NO miracle needed. The United States is on top of the hockey world for the first time in nearly a half-century. Jack Hughes scored 1:41 into overtime and the US defeated Canada 2-1 in the gold medal final at the Milan Cortina Olympics, claiming the nation's third men's title at the Games and its first since the "Miracle on Ice" on 1980.

Unlike that ragtag group of college kids that pulled off one of the biggest upsets in sports history 46 years ago by knocking off the heavily favored Soviet Union, the Americans were a machine that rode goaltender Connor Hellebuyck and a stacked roster full of NHL players through the tournament unbeaten.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Derby delight for title hopefuls Arsenal

AGENCIES @ London

EBERECHI Eze and Viktor Gyokeres helped Arsenal post a crucial 4-1 win over derby rivals Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League on Sunday. Arsenal restored a five-point lead over title rivals Manchester City with this success.

Eze struck the opener but Spurs equalised through Kolo Muani within minutes. However, Viktor Gyokeres restored Arsenal's lead before Eze scored the third goal to take the contest away from Spurs. Gyokeres scored the fourth in injury time. City had cut the gap to two points after their win against Newcastle on Saturday.

Smash & grab win

Meanwhile, Alexis Mac Allister's 97th-minute goal rescued Liverpool from a lacklustre performance to beat struggling Nottingham Forest 1-0 in a huge boost to their chances of Champions League football next season.

Forest's fourth manager of the season, Vitor Pereira, was taking charge for the first time in the league.

Results: Sunday: Tottenham **1-4** Arsenal; Nottingham Forest **0-1** Liverpool; Crystal Palace **1-0** Wolves; Sunderland **1-3** Fulham. Saturday: Man City **2-1** Newcastle.

EXPRESS READ

Hockey team's improved show in vain

HOBART: The Indian men's hockey team put up an improved performance but still ended up on the wrong side of the result, losing to Australia in the penalty shootout (5-4) in their FIH Pro League match here on Sunday. The two sides were locked at 2-2 after full time with Amit Rohidas (15th) and Jugraj Singh (43rd) putting India in front before a brace from Joel Rintala (47th, 56th) helped Australia level.

Doha to host ICC board meetings in March

DUBAI: Doha will host the next round of ICC board and committee meetings from March 25-27. "The meetings will bring together ICC Board Directors, Chief Executives, Committee Members and senior leadership, providing an opportunity to deliberate over key matters pertaining to the present and future of the global game," ICC said.

Tejal, Prema power India A to title

HOBART: Maharashtra batter Tejal Hasanbis made an unbeaten 51 off 34 balls on a slow turner before leg-spinner Prema Rawat made the ball talk as India A outplayed Bangladesh A by 46 runs in a low-scoring final to defend the ACC Women's Asia Cup Rising Stars on Sunday. All-rounder Radha Yadav led from the front through the event.

ICC chair, Google CEO attend India-SA WC tie

AHMEDABAD: ICC Chair Jay Shah and Google CEO Sundar Pichai attended the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Super 8 match between India and South Africa at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday. Pichai was also present on the field during the pre-match proceedings. Google Pixel, Google's flagship smartphone brand, is an official partner of the event, further highlighting the collaboration between global technology leaders and international cricket.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
BENGALURU, MONDAY
23.02.2026

EDUCATION EXPRESS
edex YOUR LIFE COACH

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

RRVUNL TECHNICIAN MAINS	RBI OFFICE ATTENDANT	BPSC ASSISTANT SECTION OFFICER MAINS
Date: Feb 23	Date: Feb 28	Date: Feb 27

edex LIVE .com | newindianexpress.com

NEET UG 2026
At A Glance

Subject	Number of questions	Marks
Physics	45	180
Chemistry	45	180
Biology (Botany & Zoology)	90	360
Total	**180**	**720**

KEY FEATURES

- All questions are MCQs with one correct option.
- **+4** marks for each correct response.
- **–1** for every incorrect response.
- No marks for unanswered questions.
- **Duration:** 3 hours.
- Pen-and-paper, single-shift exam.
- **Available in 13 languages:** Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR STUDENTS

- Biology carries 50% of the paper, so consistency here lifts overall score quickly.
- Negative marking is significant; accuracy matters more than attempting all questions.
- Physics and Chemistry carry equal weight, so poor balance between the two hurts rank.

A SIMPLE WAY TO STOP REPEATING MISTAKES

1. Note why each wrong answer went wrong.
2. Group your reasons under concept, misread, slip, or time.
3. Redo a few variations of the mistakes that repeat.
4. Re-test those areas the next day in a short drill.

TIME THIEVES

Not all distractions are obvious. Many of the biggest time-losses during exam prep come from small habits that feel harmless in the moment. These unnoticed detours break concentration, stretch breaks, and waste your time.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Micro-cleaning	**Timetable tweaking**	**Digital wandering**	**Kitchen wandering**	**Unnecessary rereads**	**Music tinkering**	**Study-group drift**	**Future thinking loops**	**Aesthetic note work**	**Break creep**
Straightening books, wiping the desk, and arranging pens feels like "getting ready", but it delays the first real task.	Rewriting plans and adjusting slots gives a sense of control, but it often replaces the harder act of starting.	Switching between videos, PDFs, apps, and tabs breaks attention, and a "quick check" becomes lost study time.	Not hunger, just drifting to the kitchen for water or snacks; the walk resets focus, and returning takes longer than planned.	Reading notes or questions repeatedly feels safe, but it avoids attempting problems and hides weak understanding.	Changing tracks, searching playlists, adjusting volume, and finding the "right vibe" interrupts flow more than students realise.	A discussion begins with doubts and answers, then slides into jokes, gossip, and scrolling, eating the best focus hours.	Imagining ranks, results, counselling, or worst-case outcomes feels like planning, but it pulls the mind away from the page.	Neatening notes, colour-coding headings, and drawing boxes looks productive, but it rarely improves recall or speed.	A five-minute break becomes ten, then fifteen; there is no clear restart point, so the session never fully resumes.

Understanding how focus, internalisation, exam behaviour, and post-assessment habits work together to decide whether steady study turns into real improvement

NIKHIL ABHISHEK

real talk

NOT every student who struggles is unprepared. Many put in steady hours, follow the plan, revise regularly, and still watch their marks settle into a stubborn band. It feels confusing from the inside, because nothing about their routine seems wrong. Yet the improvement they expect never quite arrives. To understand why this happens, we turned to P G Subramanian, principal of B V Bhavan's Rajaji Vidyashram in Chennai, whose work spans years of assessments and the full range of student performance. He says a plateau has little to do with how motivated a student is. It usually reflects the way their attention, understanding, and exam behaviour fit together. When even one of these slips, the effort stops translating into marks. The first misconception, he says, is the belief that time spent equals learning achieved. Many students feel productive simply because they have studied for several hours, but the quality of that time determines whether marks move at all. As he puts it, "It is not the number of hours you spend. The question is how much focus you bring to that time. Students think they are preparing, but the attention span is very low today, so the time may not be productive."

He believes learning improves only when a complete loop forms. Listening in class, recalling at home, revisiting concepts, and connecting ideas to real applications must happen as one flow. When even one part is missing, internalisation becomes weak. The student may feel they have worked hard, but the understanding remains shallow. When marks refuse to rise, families often assume the student has not studied enough. Subramanian believes the explanation is usually more complex. Students may understand a concept but fail to apply it under pressure. They may have practised questions but misread the wording in the paper. They may know the method but forget steps while writing. They may grasp the idea but struggle with case based questions because they have not read them carefully. In his experience, language skills matter more today than many students realise.

"We keep saying subjects like maths do not need language skills, but that is not true anymore. Students must read carefully, comprehend the question, and apply it to real situations," he says. The exam hall introduces its own set of leaks. Teachers routinely see answer sheets that show clear understanding but lose marks through preventable errors. Students sometimes complete all steps and write the final answer incorrectly. Others write the answer and forget a key step. Some leave a one mark question unfinished and never return to it. Subramanian says these slips are common even among strong performers. "I have evaluated papers that are flawless except for one missing answer. The student understood everything, but that one omission takes away a mark. These are simple mistakes, but they happen often."

Until the teacher, parents, and school work together, we cannot support the child. The school alone cannot do it, the teacher alone cannot do it.

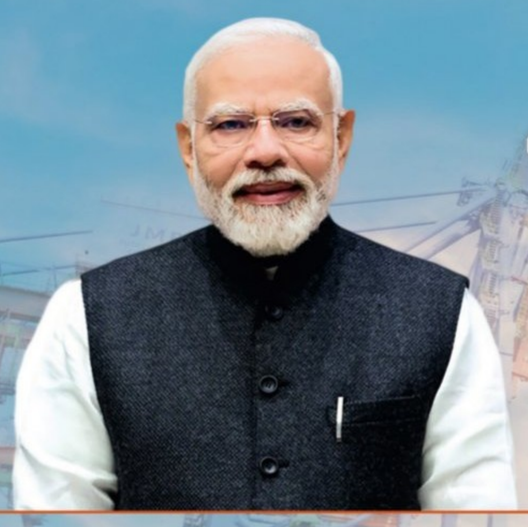
P G SUBRAMANIAN
PRINCIPAL, B V BHAVAN'S RAJAJI VIDYASHRAM, CHENNAI

Time management contributes to many of these leaks. Students may spend too long on one question, feel stuck, and lose valuable minutes. His advice is to leave space, move on, complete the rest, and return later with a calmer mind. Toppers, he says, do this naturally. Others must learn it consciously. After an assessment, Subramanian believes review is as important as preparation. Yet many students flip through their mistakes without understanding why they happened. He encourages them to sit with teachers not to argue for marks, but to understand what needs improvement. "Instead of asking for one more mark, ask how your presentation can be better and how to avoid the same mistake again. Teachers are happy to explain when students approach it this way."

He also points out that improvement depends on support at multiple levels. Students need teachers for explanation and strategy, schools for structure and environment, and parents for understanding the child's learning needs. When these three work together, he says, progress becomes visible even for those who struggle. The aim is not perfection in one jump, but steady movement.

In the end, Subramanian returns to the core idea. A plateau is not a verdict on a student's ability. It reflects gaps in focus, internalisation, application, or feedback. And every one of those gaps can be closed with guidance. "Students may feel they are stuck, but small corrections in how they study, how they write, and how they review can change the entire trajectory. Improvement always begins with understanding what is actually happening."

Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways
Government of India



A GATEWAY TO VIKSIT BHARAT

Transformative Boost to Infrastructure

Inauguration of and
Foundation Stone Laying for

VARIOUS PROJECTS

worth over ₹1500 crore

At V.O. Chidambaranar Port

by

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal
Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways

"India's ports are now counted among the most efficient in the developing world, and in many cases, are outperforming ports in the developed world."

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

23rd February 2026 | 10:00 AM onwards | V.O.Chidambaranar Port Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu

PROJECTS

Green Hydrogen, Wind and Solar Energy Projects	Development of 250 Acres for Port-Led Industrialisation	Construction of Indoor & Outdoor Stadiums, 9-Hole Golf Course and Harbour Beach Redevelopment	Digital Twin Implementation and Road Widening for Urban-Port Connectivity	Advanced Cancer Screening Facilities, E-Autos for Fishing Community and Digital Literacy Centres
KEY BENEFITS: • Establishment of sustainable and clean energy systems at the port • Reduction in carbon footprint of port operations • Advancement of green maritime infrastructure	KEY BENEFITS: • Creation of industrial ecosystem within port vicinity • Increased cargo handling and logistics capacity • Employment generation and regional industrial growth	KEY BENEFITS: • International standard sports infrastructure • Promotion of tourism and public recreation • Enhanced urban amenities in Tuticorin	KEY BENEFITS: • Real-time traffic and infrastructure optimisation • Improved connectivity between city and port • Safer and more efficient transport movement	KEY BENEFITS: • Strengthened healthcare outreach • Sustainable livelihood support for fishermen • Digital empowerment of rural youth

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23.02.2026
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

A 'super' win

Mexican-born American musician Carlos Santana won eight Grammy Awards for 'Supernatural' in 2000, tying the record set by Michael Jackson

COVETED AWARDS

The album, which came out in 1999, became a Number One hit and was certified 15 times platinum. Carlos bagged the coveted Record of the Year and Album of the Year awards

A RECORD

From 'Supernatural' to *The Game Of Love*, Carlos Santana has earned 10 Grammy Awards throughout his legendary career, spanning four decades

HALL OF FAME

Carlos's lasting contribution was marked by his group's induction (1998) into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In 2013 he was named a Kennedy Center honouree

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

Ahead of his India concert, rapper Flipperachi traces how his Bahraini hip-hop song *FA9LA* moved from club floors to cinematic folklore after its inclusion in *Dhurandhar*, where actor Akshaye Khanna's simmering screen presence lent it a dark allure

HYPE RELOADED

SRUTHI HEMACHANDRAN

THE video begins with a flicker of menace. Actor Akshaye Khanna walks into frame; the beat drops, and in no time, *FA9LA* becomes a mood. Soon after Ranveer Singh-starrer D*hurandhar*'s release at the box office, that clip was everywhere. Reel by reel, edit by edit, the track, crooned by Bahraini rapper **Flipperachi**, surged across Instagram, stitching into fan tributes and slow-motion swagger cuts. The regional smash hit found a second life, this time in India, where Flipperachi is gearing up to perform for a multi-city concert, with the second stop in Bengaluru.

The 36-year-old recalls how Singh sharing the track on Instagram sent it into overdrive. "I realised it the moment the film came out and Ranveer posted it. Immediately, it caught on social media and I knew this was about to be special," he recalls the 'surreal moment'.

The playful, high-energy *FA9LA*'s story began in a studio session with producer DJ Outlaw. The minute he got the beat, Flipperachi says, he felt like they already had a hit. He built the song, quite literally around movement. "The way I approached writing the song was to make it around different dance moves. So the lyrics are basically different dance moves strung together with some popular meme references. When *FA9LA* [also crooned by Daffy] first came out in 2024, it actually went viral in our region and in Sri Lanka as well," the singer, also known for hits like *Ee Laa*, and *Camouflage*, reveals.

Then came *Dhurandhar*, and with it, reinvention of the celebratory song. Khanna's intense screen presence too changed the game. What was once a dance anthem was now carrying an edge. Lauding Khanna, Flipperachi says, "I loved it. Akshaye's performance gave the song a different persona. The song was purely perceived as a fun number. But that moment in the film, the villain-energy, gave it a twist. The beat has some dark elements, which the production team caught and felt would be a great fit for the scene, so props to them."

For Flipperachi, the crossover into Bollywood didn't dilute the track, rather it expanded it. The viral moment opened many doors for the rapper, as he shares, "When we're writing and putting out songs, we don't necessarily see all the opportunities that can come with it. The song has opened me up to a whole new market and I'm currently working on multiple projects with Indian artistes. There are a few collabs in the works that I'll be announcing soon. The songs with each artiste are all very different in style and I can't wait for people to hear them."

Now, the artiste, whose song travelled to India before he did, is preparing to meet his fans in person at his concert presented by Outlaw Productions and Rebellion Management. He is aware that the song is everywhere and that crowds already know every beat drop. During his upcoming show, the track that crossed borders digitally will finally echo in front of a crowd. While fans will wait with bated breath for that now-iconic opening beat, Flipperachi hopes they come for more. "People know me from one song and are going to be excited to watch that one song performed live, but I'm going to show them a lot more than that. Every one of my songs is different from the other, so there will be something for everyone," he promises excitedly. As for Bengaluru? He's keeping it simple – "I'm big on spicy food. So, I'm looking forward to trying a lot of dishes for sure." For now, the focus is the stage and the beat that went from a studio spark to a cinematic storm.

(Flipperachi will perform live at UN40 Music Festival in Bengaluru on March 14. For details, visit bookmyshow.com)

Iconic entry scene of Akshaye Khanna from *Dhurandhar*

> *The way I approached writing FA9LA was to make it around different dance moves. So the lyrics are basically different dance moves strung together with some popular meme references*
>
> - Flipperachi, rapper

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

IT was incredible and surreal when I got my jersey and the announcement came that I'd made it into the team. A large part of it was that my dreams as a 15-year-old were coming true," says Bengaluru-based football and futsal player **Mithila Ramani**. The 28-year-old recently donned an India jersey for the first time to compete at the SAFF Women's Futsal Championship against 7 South Asian countries and bring home the silver medal.

"I was always a sporty kid," says Ramani, who currently plays football for the Bengaluru club Kemp FC, crediting the skills she picked up playing whenever and wherever she could as a child, with helping her adapt to futsal. "Growing up, we never had access to a turf, so I would play a lot of football on concrete or a hard mud ground, hence, it was easy for me to play on a hard, wooden, futsal court," she says, pointing out, "What took me time to get used to is the intensity of futsal. While football is all about sustained energy for 90 minutes, here you play in bursts and you have to give your 100 per cent, doing a lot of sprints. In football, you have a lot more space and time to make decisions, but futsal demands making decisions in a split second."

Although Ramani has her eye on the gold next year, the silver was definitely meaningful, since an injury took her out of the running for nationals last year. "When you end up missing key matches because of an injury, that feels like a very low point. Last year, it took me a while to come back from a massive leg fracture. It was one of my most difficult times. It's always important to have people to talk to when going through setbacks like this," she confesses.

Since the tournament, Ramani has switched back to football mode, currently training with her club for the Indian Women's League 2 (IWL 2) set to start on March 20. Her day is hectic, starting early in the morning and going on well into the night, as she juggles a job in sports management and football. "During the IWL camps, we have two training sessions. I wake up at 5.30am for the morning session until 8am, work till 3pm and head to evening training. Then, I work some more before dinner." She credits her club for support, saying that other players sometimes have it harder, "I know some have had to take up night shifts and found it difficult to balance both the club's restrictions and work expectations."

While men's football has four national-level leagues, with the ISL at the top, women's football has only the IWL (since 2016) and IWL 2 (since 2024). According to Ramani, things have improved for women in the game since Ramani moved from Chennai to Bengaluru six years ago to play in Karnataka's relatively better-developed football scene, as she comments, "Karnataka currently has a three-tier women's football state league. With so many leagues for women, there are tournaments happening almost every other weekend, independent ones too, just to provide women a platform to play. There's also a culture of sports and football watching in the city which I've come to enjoy."

With the last few years putting a spotlight on women's sports in the country, especially with the women's cricket team's international success, Ramani is hopeful for better times for football too. Sharing her dream for the sport, she says, "A professional league running year-round where women footballers can be all-out professionals without having to rely on another job, where girls can grow playing football." Here's to hoping that these dreams are on their way to coming true.

It's a goal!

Silver medal-winning India futsal player Mithila Ramani on the win, the struggles & big hopes

What is Futsal?

Futsal is a 5v5, fast-paced indoor sport recognised by FIFA and the AFC. It is played with a smaller, low-bounce futsal ball on hard surfaces.

A choir performance at the gathering

Consul General of Australia in Bengaluru Hilary McGeachy in conversation with Hokuto Kaya, former Deputy Consul General of Japan in Bengaluru

A Taiko drum performance

Seafood, Sake and a Silent Farewell

Here are glimpses from the Japanese Nat'l Day celebrations held in the city

PICS: NAGARAJA GADEKAL

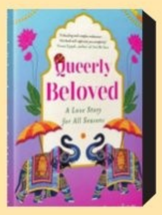
From left: Animesh Garg, deputy commissioner, IRS; Siju Thomas Daniel, Peace Ambassador; and Chandru Iyer, British Deputy High Commissioner to Karnataka & Kerala

Deputy Consul General of Japan in Bengaluru Yoshimura Tomotaka

Japanese tea ceremony

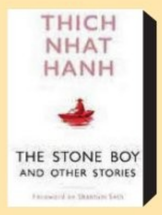
THE Emperor's birthday reception, also known as Japanese Day, drew a packed hall on Friday evening. Yet the occasion carried a sombre undertone, with Consul General of Japan in Bengaluru Nakane Tsutomu absent due to being unwell from what might have been his farewell ahead of the end of his three-year term in March. "It is truly regrettable that I must leave this post in such circumstances, as I had intended to take the stage as the host and express my gratitude for your kindness over these four years," Tsutomu sent word through the Deputy Consul-General Yoshimura Tomotaka. His Majesty Naruhito is Japan's 126th Emperor, who turned 66 this year. Having ascended the throne in 2019, he will soon enter his seventh year of reign. "To show our appreciation, we have prepared Japanese cuisine featuring fresh seafood from Kochi Prefecture, prepared by Chef Okada of the Matsuri Restaurant, who is also a Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador. We have also prepared sake, which is an ideal pairing with Japanese cuisine. I hope you will all enjoy the Japanese seafood and sake, and that through this, more people in India will become familiar with Japanese food and Japanese food culture," Tsutomu sent word.

BOOK NOOK



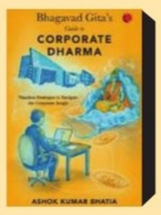
Queerly Beloved
By Farhad J Dadyburjor

Set in a contemporary rom-com landscape, it follows a tangled love triangle that threatens to upend Mumbai-based industrialist Ved Mehra's plans for a big fat Indian wedding with his partner Carlos Silva.



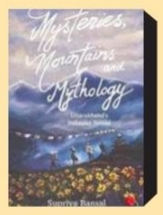
The Stone Boy & Other Stories
By Thich Nhat Hanh

Steeped in the textures of Vietnamese culture, these stories move gracefully across the landscapes of war, exile, egoism, oppression and spiritual apprenticeship.



Bhagavad Gita's Guide to Corporate Dharma: Timeless Strategies to Navigate the Corporate Jungle
By Ashok Kumar Bhatia

It draws on the eternal wisdom of the *Gita* to offer a pragmatic playbook for managers trying to stay on the path of dharma.



Mysteries, Mountains and Mythology: Uttarakhand's Folktales Retold
By Supriya Bansal

The book celebrates Uttarakhand's rich culture and oral storytelling traditions by reimagining traditional folktales.

SWIRL & SWAY

Dancers from Narthan Academy of Dance and Music (NADAM) take the stage to perform Kathak to mark the 17th Foundation Day of the National Gallery of Modern Art at its campus at Manikyavelu Mansion, Palace Road | **KEVIN NASHON**

QUICKFIX

MUTTON CHUKKA

Contributed by **Jegathambigai,** Chennai

INGREDIENTS

- **Mutton:** 250g
- **Small onion:** 100g
- **Cumin seeds:** 1/2tsp
- **Coriander seeds:** 1/2tsp
- **Dry red chillies:** 6-7

METHOD

- Grind cumin, coriander seeds and red chillies. In a pan, heat gingelly oil and saute onions and curry leaves.
- Add mutton and cook for 5 to 10 minutes. Add the ground powder and salt and turmeric powder.
- Add water and cook till soft. Serve hot with rice.

ASK AN XPERT

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

Is chocolate toxic for my cat and dog? I give them a cookie only on their birthdays. Am I harming my pets?

Chocolate is unsafe for both dogs and cats and should not be given at all. It contains theobromine and caffeine, substances that pets cannot process efficiently, even in small quantities. Ingestion can lead to gastrointestinal upset, restlessness, irregular heart rhythms, tremors, seizures and potentially serious complications. Dogs are more commonly affected, but cats are also vulnerable. Cookies containing chocolate and almonds add extra risks from fats and sugars. Although a small amount may not always cause immediate signs, it still carries potential harm. It is best to avoid chocolate completely and offer pet-safe treats for special occasions.

FITBIT

ROWING MACHINE BENEFITS: HERE'S WHY IT'S A GREAT FULL-BODY WORKOUT

The rowing machine is a versatile piece of equipment that delivers a powerful blend of cardiovascular conditioning and strength training. Unlike running or cycling, rowing engages both the upper and lower body simultaneously, making it a highly efficient way to improve endurance, build muscle and support overall fitness, all while remaining low impact and joint-friendly.

1. FULL-BODY ENGAGEMENT

- Rowing activates multiple major muscle groups including the quadriceps, hamstrings, glutes, back, shoulders and core.
- This coordinated movement improves muscular balance and overall functional strength.
- Because both legs and arms work together, rowing offers more total body engagement per minute than many other cardio machines.

2. IMPROVED CARDIOVASCULAR FITNESS

- Rowing increases heart rate steadily, supporting heart and lung conditioning.
- It can be used for steady-state endurance sessions or higher-intensity interval workouts, making it adaptable for varied fitness goals.

3. JOINT-FRIENDLY, LOW-IMPACT TRAINING

- The smooth sliding motion of rowing reduces pressure on the knees, hips, and ankles.
- This makes it suitable for beginners, older adults, or individuals managing joint discomfort.
- The seated position also minimises spinal load while maintaining effective effort.

4. ENHANCED CALORIE BURN AND FAT LOSS

- Rowing combines strength and cardio, which increases total energy expenditure.
- This helps support fat loss and body-composition goals when paired with balanced nutrition and consistent training.

5. BUILDS CORE STABILITY AND POSTURE

- The rowing stroke relies on strong trunk engagement to maintain proper alignment.
- Over time, this helps improve posture and core control during both workouts and everyday movement.

6. VERSATILE TRAINING TOOL

- Rowing can be part of warm-ups, cool-downs, steady endurance sessions or interval training.
- Athletes, beginners and fitness enthusiasts alike can tailor their workouts by adjusting resistance and pace.

By Dhruva Sivakumar, fitness expert, cult— a fitness and wellness platform

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Festive Art

Join in on a hands-on workshop focused on impasto and layering techniques using palette knives and texture mediums. Participants will explore colour composition inspired by the Holi festival to create a dimensional canvas. The session covers fundamental texture art skills, from building depth to final composition, in a creative, guided environment.

WHEN: February 23, 6pm
WHERE: Hobby Ghar, Basavanagudi
CALL: 95355 55644

The Ring

Indulge in a beginner-friendly introduction session to Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), focusing on the fundamentals of striking, grappling and self-defence. The programme integrates high-intensity cardio with strength conditioning to improve physical functional capacity.

WHEN: February 23, 8.30pm
WHERE: NY Knockout Academy, Bilekahalli
CALL: 97312 64950

Indoor Adventure

Be a part of an indoor facility featuring 35+ activities, including multi-storey go-karting, VR zones, and laser tag. The space integrates high-energy physical movement with immersive digital gaming, providing a structured environment for solo or group entertainment.

WHEN: February 23, 10.30am
WHERE: Loco Bear - The Ultimate Entertainment Hub, Koramangala
DETAILS: district.in

Sky Theatre

Watch a series of immersive Kannada-language planetarium shows exploring the history of space travel and the mechanics of the solar system. Using a hybrid projection system and 4K resolution visuals, the programme covers the Cold War space race, the geological features of the eight planets and a narrated exploration of the universe across time and space.

WHEN: February 24, 2.30pm onwards
WHERE: Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium, Sankey Road
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Clue Hunt

Immerse yourself in an experience where teams occupy theme-based rooms to solve logic puzzles and hidden-object challenges. Participants have 60 minutes to analyse clues and coordinate actions to achieve a specific objective. The facility provides various narrative scenarios, ranging from spy missions to high-stakes escapes, requiring teamwork and deduction.

WHEN: February 23, 11am onwards
WHERE: Mystery Rooms, Indira Nagar
DETAILS: district.in

Iftar Eve

Savour a seasonal culinary offering featuring Nawabi-style meal boxes from a Lucknow-style kitchen. Available for Ramadan, the curated sets include options like murgh makhanwala biryani and paneer makhanwala, paired with traditional sides such as parantha, raita and dates.

WHEN: February 23, 12pm
WHERE: Lucknowee, Indiranagar
DETAILS: Available on food-delivery apps

Comedy Circuit

Kick-start your week, laughing your heart out at this recurring event, which features a rotating lineup of standup performers in an intimate setting. Entry includes a cover charge, which is redeemable for food and beverages at the venue during the performance.

WHEN: February 23, 9pm
WHERE: Just BLR, Brigade Road
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

ARTCORNER

DREAMING NOW

Artist Mehak Garg paints a scene depicting three women lost in quiet contemplation

THE BIG GLOW UP

Mahindra's flagship XUV 700 has got an impressive upgrade and a name change. Here's all you need to know about the new XUV 7XO

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

MAHINDRA has been a shining star in the Indian automobile market for a long time. It has cemented its position as the most loved SUV manufacturer in the country among the people.

Their flagship and fan-favourite vehicle, the XUV 700, has gotten a facelift and a new name for 2026. The mighty XUV 7XO has arrived on the roads with an added zing. I recently drove the top automatic variant of the petrol version.

It is not just a cosmetic name change, I found as I zipped through the roads. Along with a name change, a host of advancements are also introduced, thereby making the seven-seater SUV more relevant to a highly competitive market.

The look

The outgoing model of XUV 700 was known for its attractive features and imposing build. So, the designer hasn't tried to alter it drastically. The changes to the exterior are very subtle, keeping the personality of the popular XUV intact.

The character lines haven't changed much, but the front end features significant additions like a slimmer grille, slimmer DRLs and a new bumper.

The verdict

Priced between ₹13.66 lakh and ₹24 lakh, the new XUV hasn't turned costlier than the outgoing model. The powerful engines and well-matched transmissions, the array of tech features, and excellent ride and handling are the highlights of the new XUV 7XO. For these factors, it is value-for-money and a fantastic option.

On the bumper, there is a silver faux skid plate element and four ice cube-shaped lighting units for the cornering and fog lamps. When driving above 80kmph, they also work as headlight boosters.

The side profile also hasn't changed. Wheel size has gone up from 18 inches to 19 inches on the top trim. There is a gloss-black trim around the wheel arches and the lower portion of the doors. The flush door handles continue.

However, recently, China has banned such handles due to safety concerns. At the rear, the LED taillamps are from the XEV 9S, with a hexagon theme.

To sum up, what I can definitely say is that owners of the latest version of the XUV 700 need not worry; the new XUV 7XO doesn't disappoint, looks-wise.

The cabin

Cabin feels more premium. It has also been equipped with more smart tech. The front seats are wide and offer good support. Both front seats are ventilated and powered, with the driver's seat getting a memory function.

The middle row is similarly comfortable, with two or three seat configurations. The second-row seats are also ventilated. Even though there is ample legroom, the front passenger seat can be moved with the powered boss mode to release more legroom for the second row passenger.

At the same time, the third row is actually an apology for seats. Practically impossible to stay there. Boot space is minimal if the third row seats are not folded down.

The steering wheel is tiltable and telescopic. Steering is shared with the XEV 9S, but it gets physical controls instead of touch-based ones.

The smart tech

The XUV 7XO represents the trend of conceiving cars as smartphones. The massive screen, which stretches the width of the dashboard, is where the most important updates are. It contains three 12.3-inch displays – one for the passenger, one with infotainment and controls and the third for driver information.

There are no physical buttons, even for controlling the AC. And all these added actions will cause a distraction while driving.

The only positive step Mahindra has taken is that the screen in front of the front seat passenger is not visible to the driver – it comes with a privacy filter. However, at night, reflection will be a distraction.

Mahindra has included many apps for media streaming and online shopping. For music freaks, the 1,400W Speaker Harman Kardon music system with Dolby Atmos and Dolby Vision will become addictive. The panoramic sunroof and rear window sun blinds also make life easier.

The safety

Six airbags, four-wheel disc brakes, Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Electronic Stability Control (ESC), hill-hold and hill-descent control are standard across variants. The top trim adds a knee airbag and an upgraded Level 2 Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) suite. The system works extremely well and is very useful.

The performance

The 2.0-litre turbo-petrol (203hp power and 380Nm torque) and the 2.2-litre diesel (185hp and 450Nm/420Nm) engines remain in the upgraded model.

The engine is powerful and takes the heavy SUV without any strain. The refinement is commendable. The six-speed automatic gearbox proves best suited for it. It smoothly shifts, so the absence of paddle shifters is not annoying.

As I drove, I got a fuel efficiency of 13 kmpl on a highway, mixed with very little city driving.

Not at all bad for a heavy SUV. The biggest engineering change Mahindra has brought in, is the new suspension technology, which makes travel much more comfortable.

It is an advanced engineered version of the frequency-selective dampers that provide different cushioning forces to suit different situations. Practically speaking, managing humps and rough patches is much smoother now.

XPRESS HIGHWAY
FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

NEW RELEASES

HONDA LAUNCHES DIO 125 X-EDITION AND SHINE 125 LIMITED EDITION

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India has launched the new Honda Dio 125 X-Edition scooter and Honda Shine 125 limited edition motorcycle, priced ₹87,733 and ₹86,211 (ex-showroom), respectively. The Dio 125 X-edition features an exclusive dual colour tone – pearl siren blue and pearl deep ground grey with a dark blue finish. It also gets bold, contemporary graphics that add a youthful vibe. The red-painted alloy wheels create a striking contrast against the body colour. The Shine 125 limited edition features a new pearl siren blue paint option, finished in a deep blue shade and contrasted by brown tank graphics. Honda has also paired the scheme with pyrite brown alloy wheels. However, there is no change in engine and other tech specifications.

MG MAJESTOR UNVEILED

JSW MG Motor India has unveiled the Majestor SUV in the segment that is dominated by the Toyota Fortuner. It replaces the premium segment SUV Gloster. The vehicle will be launched in April. The Majestor is claimed to be the tallest, widest, and longest in its class. It runs on a 2.0-litre twin-turbo diesel engine producing 216 hp. It comes paired with a speed automatic transmission. The price will be announced later, bookings are open at ₹41,000.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **E. Safiyah Shariff,** daughter of Ejaz Ahmed Shariff, aged about 34 years, residing at No. 7-B, 29th Main Road, BTM Layout 2nd Stage, Bangalore – 560076, do hereby declare that my son's name has been wrongly mentioned as "ABUL KHAIRR SHARIEF" due to a spacing error in his Birth Certificate, his Aadhaar Card, and other records. I declare that "ABUL KHAIRR SHARIEF" and "ABULKHAIRR SHARIEF" refer to one and the same person, and the correct name shall be **"ABULKHAIRR SHARIEF."** I request all concerned authorities to record and hereafter refer to my son only by the name "ABULKHAIRR SHARIEF." This declaration is made vide affidavit dated 16.02.2026, sworn before the Notary, C. Venkatapathy, at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SWETHA VINOD KUMAR** (Old Name), aged about 40 years, W/o. VINOD KUMAR, RESIDING AT NO.13/5, 2ND MAIN, 2ND BLOCK, OPP VINODH ENBLISH SCHOOL, GORAGUNTEPALYA, BENGALURU-560022, KARNATAKA, declare that I have changed my name from **SWETHA VINOD KUMAR** (Old Name) to **SWETHA SRINIVAS** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **SWETHA SRINIVAS** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 21/02/2026 before Notary **GANGARAJU.B.M.** at BENGALURU

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MATHEW KIRAN, S/o Arul Dass A residing at No M-2, Block 20, CPWD Quarters Domlur, Bengaluru 560071. Have Changed My Name to **MATHEW KIRAN ARUL DASS.** Vide Affidavit Dated 19.02.2026 before Notary C.V. EARAPPA. Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Ms. Adya Yeddula,** D/o. Sri. Ramaprasad Reddy Yeddula Venkata and Smt. Uma Vasanth, Aged about 22 years, Residing at C205, Keerthi Signature Apartments, Whitefiled Road, Opposite Prestige Shantiniketan, Hoodi, Bangalore - 560 048, do hereby declare that, **ADYA YEDDULA** and **ADYA REDDY YEDDULA** pertain to one and the same individual i.e., myself. I state that for all future intents and purposes, including those pertaining to the issuance / renewal of my Passport, my name may be recognized as **ADYA REDDY YEDDULA** vide affidavit dated 20.02.2026 sworn to before Prakasha .C, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I **MANDANNA KUTTANDA APPAIAH,** aged 39 years, son of APPAIAH, resident of Ammathi Town, Post and Hobli, Virajpet taluk, Kodagu district, Karnataka state, India,I state that both the above names and intials **MANDANNA KUTTANDA APPAIAH"** and **"KUTTANADA APPAIAH MANDANNA"** are beong to one and same person vide Affidavit Date 10/2/26 Advocate and notary By **S S POONACHA**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PRATHIMA SHETTY, W/o BHARATH SHETTY, resident of Flat No. 1205, 'B' Block, NCC Meadows Phase I, Puttenahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560 064, have changed my name to G.R. RAJASHREE .B. SHETTY** for all purposes affidavit dated 21/02/2026 sworn before advocate and notary M.S. Satish, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) TAHIRA SYED ANSAR, Residing at No. 381, 14th Main Road, Bagalur Layout, Near Govt. Hospital, St. Thomas Town, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru 560084, have chaged my Name from **(OLD NAME) TAHIRA SYED ANSAR TO (NEW NAME) TAHIRA** Vide Affidavit Dated 21-02-2026 sworn before Notary S.Nagaraja, Bangalore.

NAME CORRECTION
I, **Sri. Sushanth T,** S/o Sri. C. Thammannappa, aged about 44 years, residing atNo. 52, MBT Road, Chickpete, Bengaluru-560002, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that, my correct name is "Sushanth T", and that due to an inadvertent clerical error, my name has been incorrectly mentioned as **"Sushanth"** in my Passport; I intend to rectify my name in the Passport as **"Sushanth T"** vide affidavit before the Ld. Notary Public at Bengaluru on 19/02/2026 and vide this public notice, and henceforth I shall be known, called, and identified as **"Sushanth T"** for all official, legal, and personal purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) V K HARIHARACHARI Residing at No.23, 1st A Cross St Marys Main Road, Meghanapalya, Chinnappa Layout, Bangalore North, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bangalore-560043, have changed my Name from **(OLD NAME) V K HARIHARACHARI to (NEW NAME) KRISHNAMACHARI HARI** Vide affidavit dated 20.02.2026 sworn before Notary uday Kumar K, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) RAHUL DATTARAYA KULKARNI, Residing at No. 59/9-1, 12th Main, 3rd Block, Tyagaraja Nagar, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru 560028, have chaged my Name from **(OLD NAME) RAHUL DATTARAYA KULKARNI TO (NEW NAME) RAHUL DATTATRAYA KULKARNI** Vide Affidavit Dated 21-02-2026 Sworn Before Notary S.N.Madhu, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, VINDHYA RAMKRISHNA, D/o, Ramkrishna, Residing at, #1169, Souvidha, 7th Cross, Ananthanagar, 2nd Phase, Kammasandra, Electronic City Post, Bengaluru-560100, Karnataka, India, have changed my Minor Daughter's Name from **SVEVA (Old Name) to SVEVA VINDHYA (New Name),** vide affidavit dated:20-06-2026, Sworn before Advocate & Notary Public, B.M. Chandrashekar, Bangalore, for all Official & Future Purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SYED SHABIR AHMED, Residing at No.557, 10th A Main Road, Jayanagar 5th Block, Bangalore-560041, have changed my name to SYED SHABEER AHMED, Vide Affidavit Dated: 19.02.2026 before notary MOHAMMED HUSSAIN. K. Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RIYA V (DOB: 30-05-1980) W/o Ex-SGT: KRISHNAN K, Service No. 736372 R, residing at # 302, Sri Krishna Plaza, 1st Main, Vinayaka Nagar, IAF Post, Yelahanka, Bangalore, Karnataka-560063, have changed my name from RIYA V to RIYA KRISHNAN** Vide Affidavit Dated: 14-02-2026, sworn to before Notary Public G.P CHAYA Bangalore.

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CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAMAMURTHY B,** S/o Bheemanna, age 46 years, R/at Flat No. 301, Elegant petals, 5th B Cross, OMBR Layout, 3rd Floor, Banaswadi, Kalyananagar, Bangalore-560 043 do hereby declare that both the names ie. **RAMA MURTHY B** and **RAMAMURTHY B** are one and the same and refers to me only, but my correct name is **RAMAMURTHY .B,** vide affidavit dated 18th February 2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **K B SADHA SHIVAPPA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANITHA MARUTHI RAO PISSEA,** W/o Prasanna Ethiraj, age 43 years, R/at No. 105, 1st Floor, Balaji Classic, 308/4A Cross, OMBR Layout, Banaswadi, Kalyannagar, Bengaluru-560 043 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **ANITHA MARUTHI RAO PISSEA** and **Smt. ANITHA PRASANNA** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **Smt. ANITHA PRASANNA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 21-02-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **R.S. VIJAY** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Smt. Lakshminarasamma L,** W/o Shri. Muniraju M, aged 32 years, presently residing at No.124, 5th Cross, Pipeline Road, Mallasandra, Near Panchamukki Ganesha Temple, T Dasarahalli, Bengaluru 560 073, permanently residing at Thuruvanahalli, Tubagere, Doddaballapur, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru – 561205 have changed my name from **Lakshminarasamma L** to **"LAKSHMI L RAJ"** vide affidavit sworn on 21.02.2026 before Notary **PUTTARAMAIAH,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **CHETHAN ANAND. N,** S/o Narayana Rao. V, aged about 51 years, R/o No.643, Sri. Nivasa, 5th Main Railway Mens Layout, Near Vidyaniketan public School, Bhavani Nagar, 2nd stage, Ullal RTO Road, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560056. Hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **'CHETAN ANAND. N'** to **'CHETHAN ANAND. N',** Vide Affidavit dated 20.02.2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary Rekha. M, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHREYA DEEPTHI,** D/o. Nanda Ramesh Kumar and Nanda Usha Rani, residing at No. 17, 2nd Cross, 1st Main, Sharada Residency, BHEL 2nd Stare, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru- 560098, have changed my name from **SHREYA DEEPTHI to NANDA SREYA DEEPTHI,** vide affidavit dated: 18/02/2026, sworn before Notary Public, B. SESHAGIRI Bangalore. Henceforth, I shall be known as **NANDA SREYA DEEPTHI** for all future purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PRAVEENA L (PRAVEEN L) @ PRAVEEN RAO, aged about 43 years, S/o Lakshmana Nayaka @ P. Lakshman Rao, residing at #4032, Roshan Gardenia Apartment, 4th Floor, Poornaprajna Nagara, Uttrahalli, Subramanyapura, Bangalore - 560061, I declare that below mentioned names **PRAVEENA L (PRAVEEN L)** and **PRAVEEN RAO** are the name of the same person and that is myself I wish to be called, addressed and referred as **"PRAVEEN RAO"** instead of **"PRAVEENA L (PRAVEEN L)"** henceforth, vide affidavit dated 18/2/2026 sworn to before H H Nagaraj Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MADAVI MANOJKUMAR** (Old Name), aged about 44 years, W/o. MANOJ KUMAR.M., RESIDING AT NO.2258, 9TH MAIN E-BLOCK, 2ND STAGE, RAJAJINAGAR, BENGALURU-560010, KARNATAKA, declare that I have changed my name from **MADAVI MANOJKUMAR** (Old Name) to **MADAVI.S.** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **MADAVI.S.** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 21/02/2026 before Notary **GANGARAJU.B.M.** at BENGALURU

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) ABDUL SATTAR Residing at No.44/1, 8th Cross, 2nd Street, K.P.Agrahara, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023., have changed my Name from **(OLD NAME) ABDUL SATTAR to (NEW NAME) ANWAR ABDUL SATTAR.,** Vide affidavit dated 18.02.2026 sworn before Notary V.Rajashekhara, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANAND M,** S/o Manjunatha A, age 38 years, R/at No. 38, 3rd Cross, 3rd Main, Near Sanimahatma Temple, Lakshminagar, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560 079 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **ANAND M** and **ANAND KUMAR** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **ANAND M** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 21-02-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **ONKARAPPA.N.R** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **CHETHAN ANAND. N,** S/o Narayana Rao.V, aged about 51 years, R/o No.643, Sri. Nivasa, 5th Main Railway Mens Layout, Near Vidyaniketan Public School, Bhavani Nagar, 2nd Stage, Ullal RTO Road, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560 056. Hereby declare that, I have changed my minor son's name from **'DARSH SRINIVAS'** to **'DARSH SRINIVAS. C',** Vide Affidavit dated 20.02.2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary Rekha. M, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ANU CHAUDHARI, aged about 28 years, W/o. Vrishab Jain, Residing at No.4A, Fourth Floor, Pranav Radhakrishna Tranquil Apartment, 67, Krishna Rajendra Road, Gandhi Bazaar, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560 004, have changed my name from ANU CHAUDHARI to ANU MUTHA vide Affidavit dated 21-02-2026, sworn before Advocate & Notary Mamatha .N.K, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I. Netravati Shringari (Aadhar No.499616775114) w/o Vinod Kunchanur, D/o Ningappa Shringari residing at Kiran House, # 226/5, 2nd Floor, 13th Main, Subramanyanagar, near Sangoli Rayanna Park Bangalore - 560021, declare that below mentioned both names **Netravati Shringari** and **Netravati Ningappa Shringari** the said names are one and the same person, vide affidavit dated 20/2/2026 sworn to before Aruna V Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

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CHOOSING A FLEETING ROLE IS RISKY TO MY CAREER: SANJANA ANAND

With Hayagrriva, the actor starring alongside Dhanveerrah, opens up about prioritising roles that matter and why she is rethinking the kind of presence she brings to the screen

Sanjana Anand

A SHARADHAA

SANJANA Anand, still fresh in the audience's memory for '*Bangle Bangari*' from *Ekka*, takes on a more challenging role in *Hayagrriva*, a crime mystery thriller directed by Raghu Kumar O, releasing on Feb 27. Starring alongside Dhanveerrah, the actor is approaching this film with a lot of enthusiasm. She sees it as a moment that defines how she wants to be perceived on screen from now on. For her, the title holds power and adds weight to both the story and her role in it.

Sanjana Anand explains that her choices are now more deliberate. "At this point, even choosing a role where I come and go feels risky. In this film, my character is as important as any other. I am not just filling a spot in a love story. In a crime thriller, there is emotion, and I feel I have done justice to the role. I am pleased with what Raghu Kumar has written," she states.

A still from the film

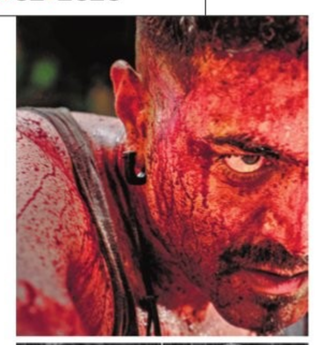
She shares that working with Dhanveerrah was a learning opportunity for her. "Every film is new, and every experience working with an actor is unique. I did not know Dhanveerrah before *Hayagrriva*, but I learned a lot through this process. I observed how prepared he is for his role, and that is something I felt I should learn too," she notes, pointing out how the collaboration encouraged her to pay attention and grow.

With first-time director Raghu Kumar, Sanjana Anand felt a sense of trust early on. "I had faith in him from his short film itself. I was curious to see how he would translate the script to screen, and over time, that confidence grew. He has come up with a concept that feels fresh by merging mythology with a crime thriller. I believe he has succeeded. There will be mistakes, but that confidence is the first step for anyone," she adds.

Describing the film as a story with a unique idea and a different approach, Sanjana Anand discusses the two aspects of her character. "I play a role with two sides. In one part, she is a college student, and in another, she is a doctor and the wife of Arjun *Hayagrriva*. The narrative has a medical background, and while the film unfolds in a serious crime space, my character brings warmth and playfulness. It's not a fleeting role. My part runs throughout the film and becomes vital to how the story ends," she explains.

Portraying a doctor left a strong impression on her. "I felt proud playing a doctor. We filmed many scenes in a real hospital, and walking through those corridors wearing the doctor's coat, and donning the stethoscope felt special. Doctors are often viewed as next to god, so taking on that responsibility on screen gave me a sense of fulfilment. We have invested a lot of effort and care into this film, and I hope audiences recognise that," she shares.

Sanjana Anand notes that she now seeks parts with a stronger impact. Looking ahead, she is balancing projects like Mudhol with Vikram Ravichandran and Bail with Shivarajkumar, a phase she describes as exciting due to the variety and new opportunities it offers.



Zee Music Company secures music rights for Yash's *Toxic*

CE FEATURES

THE momentum around *Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups* continues to grow, with Zee Music Company securing the film's music rights in a major collaboration with KVN Productions and Yash. Produced by KVN Productions in association with Monster Mind Creations, the partnership reflects the scale of the film's rollout across markets.

The album brings together composers Ravi Basrur, Vishal Mishra, and Tanishk Bagchi. They are expected to create a soundtrack that moves between intensity and emotion while supporting the film's narrative tone. While Vishal Mishra has composed four songs, Tanishk Bagchi contributes a track co-composed with Arslan Nizami and Faheem Abdullah, and Ravi Basrur has composed a song, and is taking care of the background score.

The recently released *Toxic* teaser has further strengthened anticipation, offering a glimpse into the film's world and confirming Yash in a striking double role as Raya and Ticket. The reveal has sparked conversation among audiences while setting the stage for the film's upcoming promotional phases.

Hemanth Kumar steps up to the plate in this bloody actioner

ALPHA
Director: Vijay N
Cast: Hemanth Kumar, Achyuth Kumar, Karthik Mahesh, Balu Nagendra, Ramesh Indira, Hemanth Sushil, Ayaana, Gopika Suresh, Manasi Sudhir, Raghu Shivamogga, and BM Giriraj

A SHARADHAA

FROM the outset, *Alpha* plays out as a bruising action drama, opening with a burst of violence that signals a film comfortable with grit. But director Vijay N is more invested in the emotional conflict beneath the action, building the story around a strained father-son dynamic that anchors the narrative.

Arjun (Hemanth Kumar) is impulsive and restless, a young man who admires his father yet resists the path set for him. His father, Shakthi Prasad (Achyuth Kumar), an upright police inspector, hopes to see him become an IPS officer, and that quiet mix of pride and pressure defines their relationship. The tension between discipline and defiance gives the film its emotional base, with sibling friction and a mother who sees both sides adding warmth to the home space.

The arrival of the international drug 'Khalifa' pulls the police and the underworld into the same tightening net, forcing the father and son into dangerous territory. Mangal (Ramesh Indira), Kaali (Balu Nagendra), and Vaaji (Hemanth Sushil) handle the consignment with suspicion and self-interest, their fragile alliance breaking as their paths cross Arjun's. As loyalties blur, Arjun's move from reluctant participant to avenger pushes the story forward, while Karthik Mahesh holds the opposing force together, setting up a tense clash with the hero.

Vijay N keeps the writing controlled, letting the story move with purpose rather than excess. The action has strong visual punch but stays tied to the core idea of a son trying to find his place under a father's shadow. A parallel track of contract killers raises the stakes without distracting from the emotional thread. The film also asks a pointed question: when a man of the house, known for discipline, loses his moral footing, who steps in to set things right?

Casting fresh faces on both sides works in the film's favour, giving the conflict immediacy. We see the arrival of an action hero in Hemanth Kumar, who brings volatility to Arjun and makes his impulsive choices feel natural. He has a strong physical presence and an earnest emotional pitch; while his dialogue delivery hesitates at moments, there is clear room to grow. The film presents him not just as a fighter but as a son balancing respect, rebellion, and responsibility. On the other hand, Karthik Mahesh's experimentation as antagonist carries the right intensity, bringing a calculating stillness that sharpens the confrontations.

Ramesh Indira plays his part with assurance, and the recurring beat of confession after each killing adds an interesting trait to his character. Balu Nagendra remains reliable, slipping comfortably into Kaali's skin, while Mahantesh Hiremath offers brief but effective relief. Achyuth Kumar keeps Shakthi Prasad grounded and firm without slipping into sermonising. His scenes with Hemanth Kumar carry the film's emotional weight. Avinash and Mahantesh Hiremath, Raghu Shivamogga, and Giriraj BM provide steady support, keeping the world populated and believable.

On the women front, Gopika Suresh plays Arjun's love interest, while Ayana appears as a police officer who contributes to the narrative turn. The film also reflects the realities of a cosmopolitan city, where white-collar crime often unfolds behind closed doors.

The tagline -- Men Love Vengeance, finds meaning through these intersecting arcs. The film treats vengeance not as a single act but as a mindset shaped by ego, hurt, and loyalty. For Arjun, it grows from the need to assert himself beyond his father's expectations. For the men he squares off against, it comes from survival instincts and bruised pride. In this sense, the story frames every major character as a man reacting to a perceived betrayal, making revenge less about victory and more about identity.

Composer Anoop Seelin steps away from his usual soft tonal palette to deliver a driving background score that lifts the action, while softer passages underline the father-son bond. Maasthi's dialogues play a crucial part in the action driven family drama, with Karthik S' cinematography balances grit with polish, giving the action a tactile edge without losing clarity.

Alpha keeps its focus on contrasts, violence and emotion, duty and impulse, spectacle and sentiment. It understands commercial beats while still trying to give its hero a human centre.

The film works as a solid entertainer with emotional weight, introducing a new leading man with confidence, allowing other young actors to register strongly, and reminding us that the toughest battles are often fought within the family.

At the film launch of Jai Hanuman

Jai Hanuman will be a chance to express our devotion on screen: Rishab Shetty

Rishab Shetty

CE FEATURES

THE sacred hills of Anjanadri Betta echoed with chants and devotion as *Jai Hanuman* was officially launched in a traditional ceremony at what many believe is the birthplace of Lord Hanuman. The spiritually charged atmosphere made it a perfect setting for the start of this ambitious mythological epic.

Directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Prasanth Varma, who previously made the blockbuster Hanu-Man, *Jai Hanuman* represents the next chapter in his namesake cinematic universe. The film features National Award-winning actor Rishab Shetty as Lord Hanuman, taking on what is expected to be a powerful and transformative role. Produced on a grand scale by Mythri Movie Makers and presented by T-Series, the project brings together some of the biggest names in Indian cinema. At the muhurat ceremony, T-Series head Bhushan Kumar initiated the clapboard, while Anil Thadani filmed the first shot, directed symbolically by Teja Sajja. Producers Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar, along with Shiv Chanana, also attended the function. In a ceremonial act, the script was formally given to director Prasanth Varma.

The film is billed as an action-packed epic set in Kaliyug, celebrating devotion, loyalty, and timeless strength. The makers have invested in a substantial budget to achieve high technical standards. The film has a stellar crew, including Oscar-winning composer MM Keeravani, cinematographer S Thirunavukkarasu, and production designer Srinagendra Thangala.

Speaking with the media, Rishab Shetty shared his emotional connection to this moment, "I initially expressed my wish to the producer and director to hold the muhurat at the birthplace of Lord Hanuman. Today, the entire team has gathered here to seek his blessings, and we are happy and fortunate that it could take place at this sacred place. *Jai Hanuman* was announced even before the release of Kantara Chapter 1, and I view this as a rare chance to serve through film. This will be a divine movie and an opportunity to show our devotion on screen. Director Prasanth Varma has created a powerful story, and I believe that devotees and followers of Lord Rama and Hanuman will experience it with a deep sense of faith."

Venom animated film in the works

CE FEATURES

ONE of the favourite *Spider-Man* villains, Venom, will now appear in an animated film from directors Zach Lipovsky and Adam B. Stein, known for their work on Final Destination Bloodlines. Tom Hardy, who played Eddie Brock and his snaggletoothed counterpart in the three live-action *Venom* films, will be a part of the animated film, sources close to the makers have told Variety. However, it is unclear whether he will lend his voice to the symbiote or will contribute in any other capacity.

Lipovsky and Stein put themselves on the map after delivering a hit with *Final Destination Bloodlines*, which earned $317.9 million, and revived the franchise. The duo have also been attached as co-writers in Chris Columbus' *Gremlins 3*. Unlike the usual light-hearted nature of animated films, given the subject matter, *Venom* may not be as kid-friendly.

EVIL DEAD WRATH STARTS FILMING

CE FEATURES

WITH the next film in the *Evil Dead* franchise, *Evil Dead Burn*, set for a release in theatres on July 24, a new instalment from the franchise has already set the ball rolling.

Warner Brothers unveiling the title of the new *Evil Dead* film, announced that this will be the film that follows *Evil Dead Burn*. Writer-director Francis Galluppi, popular for The Last Stop in Yuma County, will take on the directorial duty of *Evil Dead Wrath*. *Evil Dead Wrath* will star Charlotte Hope, of The Nun fame, Zach Gilford, of Midnight Mass fame, Jessica McNamee, of Mortal Kombat fame, Josh Helman, of Mad Max: Fury Road, Elizabeth Cullen, of Diabolic fame, Ella Newton, of Dangerous Animals, and Ella Oliphant.

Evil Dead creator Sam Raimi and franchise producer Rob Tapert are serving as the producers of *Evil Dead Wrath*. Lee Cronin, Bruce Campbell, Jose Canas and Romel Adam are serving as the executive producers of the film. The soon-to-be-released *Evil Dead Burn*, directed by Sebastian Vanicek, stars Souheila Yacoub, Luciane Buchanan, Hunter Doohan, Tandi Wright and George Pullar.